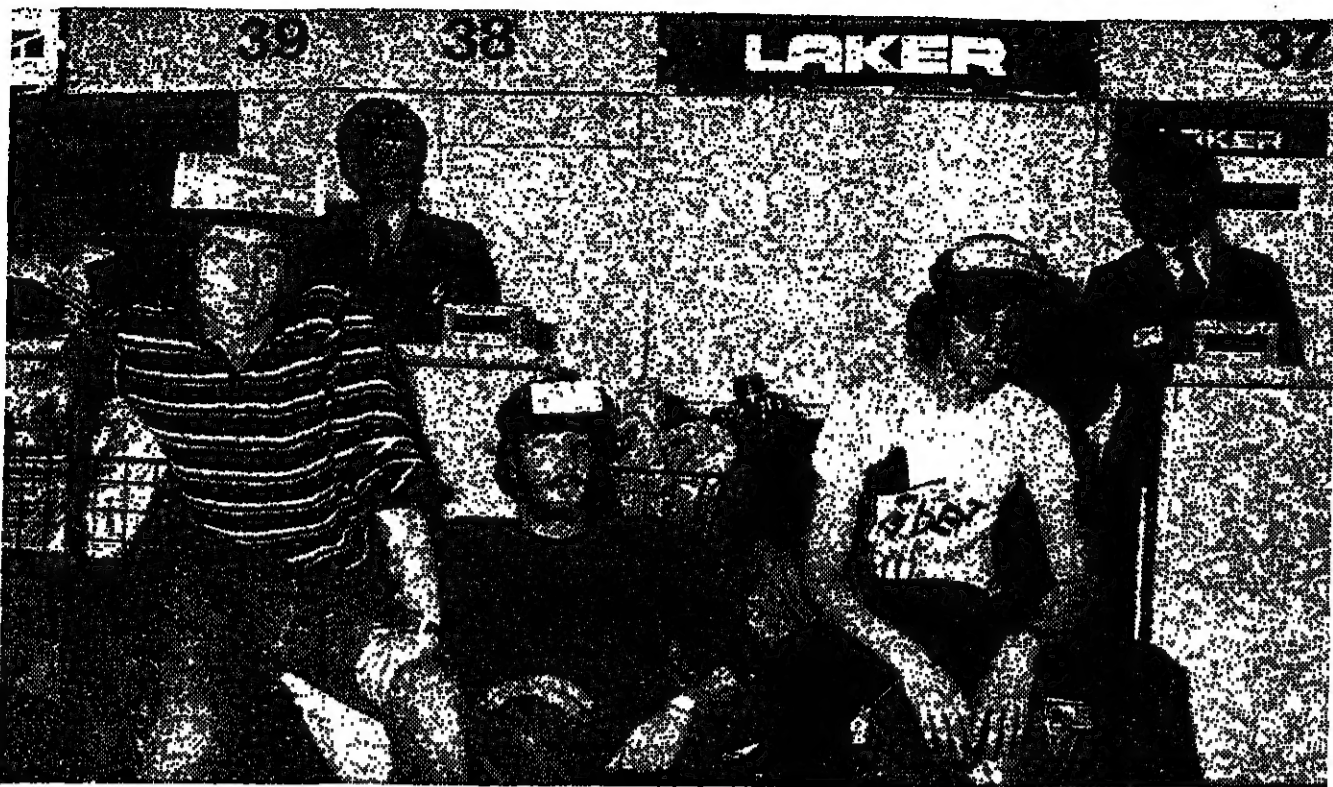


# Laker Airways collapses with debts of £270m



Three young Americans, stranded by the Laker collapse yesterday, waiting disconsolately in London.

## Sir Freddie to meet receiver today

By Staff Reporters  
Laker Airways collapsed yesterday owing £270m to banks and other creditors. Sir Freddie Laker, pioneer of cheap air travel, gave up the battle to save his airline after months of frantic negotiations and the bankruptcy of last-minute attempts to mount a rescue.

He asked Clydesdale Bank to appoint a receiver after a board meeting at Gatwick airport, London, at 8am. The airline's future would be known in less than a week, Mr Bill Mackay, the receiver, said. "There is no way that Sir Freddie Laker can carry on with this business in its present form. It has to be sold," Mr Mackay is to meet Sir Freddie today.

The Civil Aviation Authority had given notice to take effect in six days to withdraw the operating licence for the fleet of aircraft owned by the Laker group, he added. The airline's stranded passengers would have the return half of scheduled tickets honoured by British Airways, Pan Am, Air Florida, and British Caledonian.

Earlier this week it seemed that agreement on saving the airline was close and Sir Freddie announced that his financial troubles were over. But information then emerged showing that Laker's ticket sales and bookings were much worse than expected, and the talks among the creditor banks broke down.

The airline's collapse left passengers and holidaymakers stranded all round the world, and Laker aircraft flying from Britain were recalled in mid-flight.

The last-ditch attempts to save Laker involved ministerial talks and the Prime Minister

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was kept informed. But the Government indicated from an early stage that it expected any help for Laker to come from the private sector and decided on Thursday afternoon, after a telephone call from Sir Freddie to the Department of Trade, that there could be no state rescue.

Sir Freddie was still struggling to pull together a deal until early yesterday. But talks a time Gatwick Hilton involving Samuel Mounsgu, Laker's merchant bank, and Intrans, the holiday company, came to nothing.

In a statement yesterday, Sir Freddie said that the facilities available to Laker from its bankers and the arrangements reached with McDonnell Douglas were not considered adequate by others to meet the company's needs over the next few months. The company was worried concerned that there should be no risk to passengers who could be stranded if the airline collapsed in the summer.

Mr Bill Mackay, of accountants, Ernst and Whinney, who is the company's newly appointed receiver, said last night that it was highly unlikely that even a limited Laker service would continue. He had spent the afternoon in talks with about 10 other airlines in an attempt to reach agreement on bringing stranded Laker passengers back.

He said he had high hopes of securing agreement on the Laker passengers on scheduled flights, of whom there were about 5,000, but said charter passengers were governed by different regulations. No agreement had yet been reached on those passengers.

He added that although it was unlikely that the Skytrain business would continue, "it may be possible to continue the tour business". Laker passengers with tickets but who had not gone on flights would be treated as unsecured creditors by the liquidator. They should make their claims for refunds through their agents. But he did not know what their chance of success would be.

He said the airline's employees had been told that they would be getting their next pay cheques, but after that the position was uncertain. On the future of Laker, he said: "If no one takes it over, then we will close it down".

In the Commons, Mr Iain Spate, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, gave an assurance that everything possible was being done to help the airline's 10,000 stranded passengers, saying that there was about £25m available for their repatriation if that much was required.

He said that passengers who had paid for a package holiday would be protected in the first instance by the bond that Laker's tour operating companies had provided as a condition of their air travel organisers' licences. He added, however, that those arrangements would not cover people travelling on Skytrain scheduled services.

In all, Laker had a fleet of 16 aircraft and employed 2,600 people. Midland Bank Group is expected to be one of the worst sufferers from Laker's collapse. Its subsidiary, Clydesdale Bank, may lose up to £9m, according to City sources. Bankers said Laker's losses were running at £15m to £20m a year. It owes banks £230m with a further £40m owed to unsecured creditors. Assets were estimated at about £250m.

The airline industry was awash with crocodile tears yesterday as its leaders publicly bewailed and privately rejoiced over Laker's collapse. Bankruptcy among airlines has been seen for months as the quickest and most direct way to get rid of over-capacity on the Atlantic routes.

There was personal sympathy for Sir Freddie and his staff, but there was also an immediate and not entirely disinterested rush of practical help for the airline's stranded passengers. Laker has been carrying about a quarter of the passengers travelling between Britain and New York, and the flight got under way to pick up his customers.

Air Florida, Laker's arch-rival, said: "It is tragic, because Laker was a fine airline. But there is going to be a lot of traffic out there to be picked up, and in that sense it is good".

McDonnell Douglas may quit civil aviation

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent  
McDonnell Douglas, the big United States aircraft manufacturer, stands to lose up to \$50m (£26m) after the Laker collapse, could become the second of the world's four major plane makers to abandon civil aircraft production. Such a move, which has been widely expected within the aviation industry since Lockheed's decision in December to end TriStar production, was made even more likely with the sudden announcement by McDonnell yesterday that it had pulled out of its partnership with Fokker of Holland to develop the MDX-100, a new 150-seater airliner for the late 1980s.

McDonnell put a brave face on the latest developments. Mr Ray Daffry, the company's United States spokesman, said: "We are not considering pulling out of the commercial aircraft business". In Britain, an official said the MDX-100 decision was not connected with the Laker affair and added that McDonnell would continue design work on a 150-seater airliner and would be talking to potential partners. But there must be considerable doubt about McDonnell's future presence in the civil aircraft market. Last year 62 per cent of the company's sales were military and 38 per cent commercial, with the civil airliner operations recording a loss of \$35m.

McDonnell has been in the forefront in trying to put together a financial package to save Laker. Part of the proposed restructuring of Laker's finances was a conversion into preference shareholdings of at least some of the \$46m debt guaranteed by McDonnell in relation to the DC10s, and the United States manufacturer was also expected to lend up to £4m to the airline.

Arthur Reed writes: Airbus Industrie, the European consortium with France, West Germany, and Britain as its main partners, is taking a fairly relaxed view of the Laker collapse, even though he has ten A300-B4 300-seaters on order, three of which have so far been delivered.

An Airbus spokesman said from Toulouse that the A300 and A310 appeared to be the main aircraft which the airlines of the world want today. The inference is that Airbus will have no difficulty in placing the seven Laker-ordered aircraft.

## Whitehall reveals curbs on Poland

By Simon Scott Plummer  
Britain announced yesterday measures against Poland and the Soviet Union to mark its disapproval of the military takeover in Poland. They include travel restrictions on Polish and Soviet officials in Britain and tighter terms for credit.

Britain is the first European Nato country to give details of its reaction to the imposition of martial law in Poland. Its allies, apart from Greece, which has dissociated itself from such a course, are expected to follow suit over the next few days.

The measures against Poland include: By Polish diplomats, officials and journalists restricted to within 25 miles of London and Glasgow, where there is a Polish Consulate; Government-backed credits for Poland suspended as is the rescheduling of Poland's 1982 official debt; Officially guaranteed credits to Poland go into abeyance, subject to safeguarding the interests of British firms with contractual obligations.

Britain and its EEC partners have agreed to stop sales of cut-price food to Poland. BBC Polish-language broadcasts will be increased by five hours a week to 264 hours. The restrictions applied to the Soviet Union in 1981. A reduction from 35 to 25 miles in the distance Soviet officials can travel outside London without special permission; a reduction in activity under Anglo-Soviet technical cooperation agreements, covering medicine and public health, environmental protection, agricultural research and atomic energy.

A licensing system for Soviet factory ships loading fish caught in British waters; Renegotiation of the 1968 Anglo-Soviet treaty on merchant navigation; exploring, with other EEC nations the possibility of reclassifying the Soviet Union within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development export credit consensus. This would put the Russians in a relatively rich, instead of an intermediate category, thus raising loan interest rates.

Pravda backs purge, page 4

## Pyke's ordeal in Iran jails

By Mario Modiano in Athens and David Cross in London

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman who had spent longer in captivity in Iran than the American hostages, arrived in Athens yesterday to be reunited with his Dutch wife, Ursula. "I'm feeling great. It's nice to see the world again," he told The Times.

Mr Pyke, aged 42, who was released from jail just over a week ago and spent the past few days waiting in the Swedish Embassy in Tehran for his exit papers to be cleared, arrived on a regular Iranian flight looking fit in a dark blue jacket and corduroy trousers. British Embassy officials took him to an undisclosed destination where he met his wife for the first time in privacy since he was arrested about 17 months ago.

He had originally planned to continue his journey home yesterday but because his flight was delayed by a couple of hours he and his wife decided to spend the night in Athens. Speaking to The Times in London by telephone before he left the Iranian capital, he described in detail his sudden release from prison and the reasons behind it.

It all happened very quickly in the end, he said. The first sign that his release might be imminent came when he was transferred from Karaj prison, about 25 miles outside Tehran, to the notorious Evin prison in the centre of the capital on about January 19. Then on the Saturday of that week (January 23) he was called before an examining judge for an informal hearing on his case. Four days later he agreed to make a video tape either for the Iranian authorities' files or for local broadcast. (He was not completely sure how the recording would be used). Then a day later he was handed over to the custody of the Swedish Embassy, which looks after British interests in Iran.

Asked about the video recording, Mr Pyke said that

he had been asked by the Iranians to talk about his treatment in jail, particularly the Evin prison where he spent the first few months of his imprisonment as well as his final ten days in captivity. When he asked why the authorities wanted a recording of his views, they had responded: "Well, there's so much bad publicity about Evin that if a foreigner goes on TV and says it (that conditions are not bad) maybe people would believe him."

Mr Pyke said that he had agreed to make the recording "because I simply told the truth and didn't have to hide anything unpleasant that happened to me personally. I was well-treated, never ill-treated at all, physically. Mentally, you know, the uncertainty of being locked up a life that is different. But my physical treatment was excellent."

Asked why he thought he had been released so suddenly, he said that he had been "innocent, totally innocent and they couldn't find anything wrong in my company or personal affairs."

He thought the Iranian authorities had had enough of him. "I had been there a long time and they probably thought let's get rid of him. You know, he's becoming a bit of a stone around our necks, this guy, politically."

During the last exclusive interview, Mr Pyke said he believed that he had been almost freed from prison last summer. On June 31, he said, he had signed a document stating that he accepted the terms of a guarantee whereby he would be released from prison but would stay in Iran until authorisation came through for him to leave.

The very next day, the prison was closed to the public because of a new crisis with local terrorists. It was then that he was transferred to Karaj prison.

can go ahead without Aslef, and there could be a chance of solving the issue. But I would welcome it if they (the train drivers) would participate."

Acas officials who are providing a secretariat for the McCarthy inquiry disclosed yesterday that the chairman and his two colleagues, Mr George Doughty, the former engineering white-collar union leader, and Mr Ted Chappin, ex-managing director of Esso, will examine all the documentary evidence of the disputed deal between the unpaid 3 per cent wage rise and BR's demand for flexible rostering.

There will be no trains tomorrow as the footplatemen strike their fourth weekend 24-hour strike. Aslef has served notice of similar stoppages on Tuesday and Thursday.

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SAVE & PROSPER INTERNATIONAL

Profile, page 2  
Leading article, page 7

## S African white dies in detention

A young white trade unionist has been found hanged in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg. Dr Neil Aggett, detained in a round-up of political activists, is the first white among the 46 people who have died in security police custody since 1963. Page 5

## Segregate fans, says minister

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, has told Spain of the need to segregate British football fans from the supporters of other teams playing in the World Cup. The Spaniards were now aware of the problems of "our so-called football fans", he said.

## Soviet general expelled by US

General Vasily Chitov, the senior military officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, has been expelled for "activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status". He was said to have been found in possession of incriminating documents. Norway has also expelled two Soviet diplomats. Page 4

## North Sea oil prices cut

North Sea oil prices are being cut by \$1.50 a barrel as a result of the world oil glut. But the oil companies are unlikely to pass the reduction to the motorist. Page 15

## SDP denounced as 'weasels'

The SDP decision to vote for Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill was denounced by Labour leaders and one of the party's own MPs. Mr Denis Healey dubbed the SDP "Tebbit's Troopers" and said its leaders were acting like "weasels in a sack". Back page

## Easy victory for Herr Schmidt

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, seeking a confirmation of his domestic and foreign policies, easily won a vote of confidence in the Bundestag. Deputies of the two coalition parties gave unanimous backing to the motion, carried by a majority of 43. Page 4

## Indian father is deported

The Indian husband of a young Asian woman from Birmingham who recently gave birth was sent back to India because of the new law on foreign husbands. The case is being used in a campaign against the immigration rules. Page 2

## Shells greet Carrington

Two Vietnamese shells landed in a Cambodian refugee camp near the Thai-Cambodian border less than an hour before Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived. Lord Carrington, who is visiting Thailand to see food being distributed to some 13,000 Cambodian women. Page 5

## Toxteth pledge

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, denied that he was about to abandon the community policing experiment in Toxteth because of attacks on officers. Despite difficulties, his men were determined to see the system work. Page 2

## Vauxhall stars

Vauxhall, General Motors' United Kingdom subsidiary, sold 14,393 cars last month—more than at any time since June, 1978. The Cavalier was third best seller, and the Astra sixth. Page 15

## Golden girls

June Croft, aged 18, of Wigan, won two gold medals and Jackie Wilkinson, aged 16, of Southend, one gold medal in the freestyle events on the first day of the Arena international swimming meeting in Paris. Page 20

## Leader page, 7

Letters: On funding universities, from Professor C. A. Pastorek, and Professor G. L. Husley; Laker, from Mr Martin Drew; West End theatres, from Mr Paul Edgington. Leading articles: Laker; Manpower Services Commission; sex shops. Features, page 6. Sir Harold Wilson pays a personal tribute to the Queen: will the Liberals walk off with the alliance spoils? a small matter of the cheese board.

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# 'The day Freddie Laker stops flying aeroplanes, the fares will go up and up...'

Travel now

## Operators ready for payouts as flights switch

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Package holiday tour operators using Laker flights and travel agents selling Laker package holidays scrambled yesterday to cope with the immediate problems thrown up by the Laker collapse. However, longer-term, higher price transatlantic holidays are foreseen.

Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest tour operator, is footing the bill for switching 13 of their holidaymakers to a British Airways flight today in class after their Laker flight to Montego Bay, Jamaica, via Miami, was halted at Manchester yesterday as it was about to take off.

Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain, was preparing if necessary to pay out substantial sums under its 24-hour money back guarantee to those who had booked package holidays through Cooks from Laker's package holiday subsidiaries, Laker Air Travel and the North West-based Arrow-Smith.

Thomson was last night still making alternative arrangements for other groups due out this weekend on Laker flights from Manchester, Gatwick and Prestwick to United States and Caribbean destinations. With the under-used capacity now existing on the North Atlantic services, once the immediate difficulties are over, there should be few problems in finding seats with other airlines.

Holidaymakers who had booked Laker package tours will get their money back under bonding arrangements within the travel industry. This is not an immediate payment, for administrative reasons, but some other travel agents in addition to Cooks, give no-strings guarantees.

If the Receiver shuts down Laker package holidays, the package operators and agents will also offer alternative holidays.

Cosmos, another big tour operator, said last night it did not anticipate great difficulties in switching to other airlines to cope with Laker-booked travellers on its own package holidays. It is also increasing its allocation of beds in hotels at destinations used by the Laker holidays subsidiaries.

There are about 4,500 holiday makers abroad on Laker package holidays. The bonding arrangements administered by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) allow for immediate payments, if necessary, for package holiday customers likely to be stranded. But there were fears in the industry last night that

some holidaymakers abroad might mistakenly turn holidaymakers out if money was owed to the hotel.

Return tickets issued by Laker for its package holidays are likely to be honoured by other airlines. British Caledonian and British Airways last night were among several airlines offering to re-arrange, where possible, passengers stranded with Laker scheduled service tickets.

Travellers with Laker tickets on scheduled flights are not covered by the package holiday bonding arrangements. The Laker scheduled flights are between the United Kingdom and four United States destinations: New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Tampa. Anyone who has paid a deposit on the total cost of a ticket still not used, effectively becomes an unsecured creditor of Laker.

There was speculation last night whether there could be recompense under the Air Travel Reserve Fund (Amendment) Bill, now through Parliament. This is intended to extend compensation to scheduled passengers when an airline goes into liquidation.

However this would mean allowing for retrospective payment as was done when a fund was set up to deal with the aftermath of the Court Line financial crash.

If Laker's transatlantic operations were scrapped there would, ostensibly be some rich pickings for other airlines. Laker has 17 per cent of the market on the London-New York route; 30 per cent of London-Los Angeles; and 23 per cent of London-Miami. However, higher prices could shrink these markets, removing at least some of the advantages for the remaining airlines.

Laker's package holiday operations have about 3 per cent of the summer market of around five million holidays altogether and rather more of the smaller winter holidays market of just over one million holidays.

At Laker's Gatwick headquarters yesterday, no one could say how many return ticket holders were stranded in the United States. Most Skytrain passengers fly on one-way tickets.

A spokesman for Laker Airways in New York said last night that the United Kingdom passengers in the United States would be accommodated on other airlines without further cost. It would take about a fortnight to repatriate all those with reservations.

## Countdown to collapse

## Why the banks acted

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

By a strange twist of fate, the decision finally to call in the receiver to Sir Freddie Laker's cur-price airline has come in the very week when agreement on a rescue package seemed closer than ever.

On Monday night Sir Freddie's bankers and advisers were increasingly confident that the negotiations could be tied up within a week or so and the matter then be handed over to the lawyers to draw up the final documents. Next day Sir Freddie was telling the world that he was flying high and his financial problems were over.

His bankers reacted with predictable caution, describing his comments as premature. But it was not until later in the week that the bad news emerged which finally sunk Laker.

New figures showing worse-than-expected ticket sales, combined with disappointing forecasts for cash flow in the months ahead, were the final straw. The whole basis of the rescue package worked out over six months of intense negotiations, involving the Bank of England and Laker's own advisers Samuel Montagu, depended on sufficient cash being available for Laker to keep trading during the difficult winter months.

The gloomy news on Laker's trading position which surfaced this week meant that no one could be confident that Laker would be able to go on paying his bills, even though there had been considerable progress on sorting out the fundamental balance sheet problems.

It was this shortage of cash which precipitated the appointment of accountants Ernst and Whinney as receivers yesterday morning. The previous day, Thursday, Laker's advisers Samuel Montagu had further

What Laker owes the banks	Term	Overdraft
Midland Bank syndicate	£70m	—
Eximbank syndicate	£121m	—
Japanese bank syndicate	£30m	—
Clydesdale Bank	—	£9m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£230m</b>	

By Alan Hamilton  
Sir Freddie Laker was in an expansive confident mood. It was May 1979 and he was in Toulouse, showing visitors over the Airbus Industrie production line where the first of his order for 10 wide-bodied jets was taking shape.

When, an eager journalist in the party inquired, did Sir Freddie plan to make his first commercial flight in it?

"Let's see," the recently knighted Sir Freddie mused. "I'd like to spend Christmas on my yacht in Majorca, so let's say we'll fly down the Saturday before Christmas, 1980. We'll take off at half past ten in the morning if that suits my pilot, and you're all invited. Is that all right with you?" he asked of the assembled Airbus executives, who nodded meekly.

The characteristically jovial off-the-cuff statement was doubly significant. By naming a date Sir Freddie had committed the makers to deliver-

ing his first Airbus three weeks early, and by ordering the fleet in the first place he was taking what was to prove one of the few bad business decisions of his life.

Sir Freddie was raised in properly humble surroundings in Canterbury; his father, a merchant seaman, deserted the family when the only child was eight, and his mother had to turn to the unlikely business of scrap dealing to make a living. Laker junior was a dabbler at school, provoking laughter when he gave his life's ambition as "to be a millionaire".

His blinding vision of the future, he says, came when he saw at one time the airship Hindenburg and an Imperial Airways Handley Page flying together in the Kent sky; from that moment his life and his fortune were to be aircraft. He found work in the Short Brothers aircraft factory at Rochester, where he was soon turning his first profit by fetch-

ing his workmates 1d cans of tea, having negotiated favourable bulk rates with the can-rental firm.

War-time experience as a ferry pilot gained him flying and engineering qualifications, giving him an intimate knowledge of aircraft that has stood him in good stead ever since.

He had a short spell in the newly created British European Airways immediately after the war, but the bureaucracy was too constricting for a man of Sir Freddie's stamp. With his own and his mother's savings he bought some government surplus trucks and sold them. With the profits he bought a cherry orchard and sold it.

With these profits he bought radio spares and sold them. The Berlin airlift was a god-send to him and many other former wartime aircrew members who were finding it hard to make a living in post-war civilian austerity. Sir Freddie happened to be more successful than most; then, as years

later, his secret was to venture where more cautious businessmen feared to tread.

A chance meeting with an old friend in a public house in Whitehall brought him a £38,000 loan with which he bought BOAC's entire fleet of 12 Halifax bombers converted to passenger use. By the time the Berlin airlift was over he was the owner of 100 redundant wartime aircraft and 6,000 spare engines.

He melted them down and sold the lot to a maker of aluminium saucepans; with these profits he bought his first many Rolls-Royces.

He became managing director of British United Airways, in which role he took on the state air corporations. But Sir Freddie has never been happy as anyone else's employee.

He left BUA in 1965; friends say that it was the frustration of spending much of his working day negotiating with trade unions, rather than running an airline, that drove

him out. Sir Freddie and the unions have never had much time for each other.

Another, rarely mentioned factor, is that about that time his son Kevin was killed in the MG sports car his father had given him for his seventeenth birthday, and which he says he had "decorated" so that it was not capable of high speeds.

He founded Laker in 1966, and did well in the burgeoning package holiday business, but it was not until 1971 that he announced Skytrain and began the long battle against the British and American governments, and what he saw as the artificially high prices of transatlantic air tickets.

He found an ally in Lord Boyd-Carpenter, former Tory minister and new head of the Civil Aviation Authority, who must have seen in Sir Freddie the embodiment of an enterprising capitalist.

His unashamedly daredevil

approach to business, his talent for flying right up to the legal limits of accepted practice, not so much to break the sound barrier as to extend it, have brought him much wealth, including a spacious house in Sussex, a 1,000-acre farm in Surrey, a stud farm of 24 thoroughbreds at Epsom, and an 85-ton yacht, *Turinella*.

His personal life has been less successful. He has been married three times; his present wife, Patricia, recently won an injunction in a court in Florida forbidding Sir Freddie from taking away their son aged three. The couple's first child died at birth.

As recently as last month, with sterling falling against the dollar, trouble mounting over repayments for his DC10s and Airbuses and the clouds gathering over his airline, he was typically defiant. "The day Freddie Laker stops flying aeroplanes," he told a reporter, "the fares will go up and up".

## Fares now

## Going up, but not by much—yet

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Laker's collapse means that Atlantic air fares will go up 15 per cent in March and another 7½ per cent in May on several routes. Details of the increases were disclosed in *The Times* on Monday with the reservation that they might not happen—because of Laker.

Laker was not a member of IATA, which set the new fares—the whole idea of it was anathema to him—and so long as he was around there was always a chance of his maverick refusal to go along with them, even though he needed them more than anyone. Others would have refused, too.

But, in view of yesterday's events, presumably if Laker had lasted until March his fares would have had to go up. Perhaps that prospect was an influential factor in the timing of the announcement. It was a matter of fierce pride to him to be the great price-cutter, the consumers' champion.

It was that pride which last autumn made him refuse the blandishments of banks and government departments for a fare rise then. Had he done so, Pan Am would not have needed to cut their fares in November and so "put the boot in".

Having come down, fares will stay comparatively low, in my view, at least for the next three years while substantial over-capacity is over-hanging the market. Laker may have seen an ardent practitioner of deregulation, but he did not invent it.

Competition should see to it that Atlantic fares never

matched. Thus Air Florida, another arch-price-cutter formerly headed by Mr. Acker, said yesterday: "From now on we know that if we stay down others will come down too. While if we go up, everyone will go up."

Atlantic air fares will go up—they had to after £250m combined losses last year; but it will not be by much. return to excessive levels, even in the longer term. The learning experience of the Atlantic airlines over the last five years should also ensure fewer fits and starts—in other words, a more controlled competition.

Pan Am's chairman, Mr. Ed Acker, ensured this when he warned last autumn that in future there would be no comfortable spots from which competitors could undercut his company. Price cuts would be

## Proposed fare changes London—New York

One way	Current	New fare	% Change
First Business (Winter)	£215	£246	+ 15
First Business (Summer)	£215	£246	+ 15
Economy (Winter)	£124	£143	+ 15
Economy (Summer)	£124	£143	+ 15
Standby (Winter)	£90	£98	+ 10
Standby (Summer)	£90	£98	+ 10
Return Super Apex (Winter)	£223	£257	+ 15
Return Super Apex (Summer)	£223	£257	+ 15
Return Super Apex (Winter)	£223	£257	+ 15
Return Super Apex (Summer)	£223	£257	+ 15

## Flightpath for Laker

1948

Laker borrows £38,000 to buy 12 ex BOAC Halton planes. The Berlin airlift sets him on his way to 10 years of independent charter operation, including channel air ferries.

1960

Civil Aviation Act ends state monopoly of scheduled passenger services. British United Airways, with Laker in a key role, attempts to take on BEA and BOAC.

1965

Laker leaves BUA to form his own airline, "A contract carrier to the package holiday trade and a personalised airline".

1971

Laker announces Skytrain and orders new wide-bodied DC10s to begin the battle against the British and US governments for cheap transatlantic air fares.

1973

First Laker DC10 flies to Majorca. Oil prices and intense competition leads to collapse of Court Line package holiday business.

1974

Laker calls Department of Trade officials opposed to Skytrain "bums and gangsters". Lord Denning backs Skytrain.

1975

Mrs Thatcher chooses Laker to fly, as Opposition leader, on first visit to North America.

1977

After long United States battle President Carter gives Skytrain the go ahead.

1979

Civil Aviation Authority grounds all DC10s after Chicago air crash. Laker estimates the cost to him at £13m.

1980

Plans for European Skytrain blocked by United Kingdom Government.

1981

Laker takes delivery of first of 10 proposed European Airbus. Trouble over £130m loan repayments for DC10s and Airbus as sterling falls against the dollar.

1982

Loans crisis ends in collapse.

## Transatlantic reaction

## Downfall dismays US

By Staff Reporters

he said, most of whom were formed into a trade association at Sir Freddie's encouragement, "but that will be no good for them now. They will not have the resources, I am certain that many, many of them will be regretting it today."

Criticism of Sir Freddie came from the staff association he helped to set up to keep unions out of his com-

pany. Alison Fravolini, vice-president of the association, said the first she heard of the crash was through the media. "It is very difficult to work for a folk hero. He is a buccaneer, but from our point of view we have compulsory overtime, no pension scheme, no health plan and our junior cabin crew have found themselves eligible and in receipt of supplementary benefits for the low paid. This is the thing that the general public does not know about."

None the less, Sir Freddie had generated the loyalty that made the staff sick with him. "We have not had a pay rise in four years and the last time he came to see us was to ask us to sacrifice two 5 per cent threshold payments. When the going was good we have had not very much from Laker Airways."

Mrs Evelyn Hayward, New York representative of Laker Airways, said that Sir Freddie was there until Wednesday night making commercials for television and radio. "I saw the rushes for one with Sir Freddie talking to passengers and showing them the different types of services, and it was really good."

Mr Norman Clement, Mayor of Miami Beach, said he was shocked and deeply saddened at the news. "No one will ever realise quite how much Sir Freddie did for our area in the past few years. He literally kept the Miami Beach economy alive," he said.

Lady Laker, Sir Freddie's estranged wife, said last night that she was confident he would bounce back. "He has a lot of other interests, his farm and his stud and stocks. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will survive," she said.

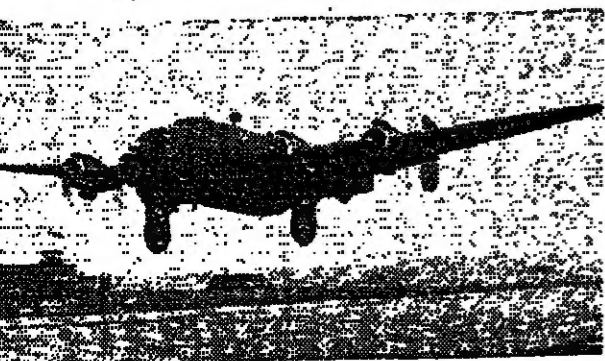


Mr Bill Mackey, who has been appointed Receiver of Laker, has headed the accountants Ernst and Whinney's insolvency department for 11 years. "It is a former chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' insolvency sub-committee and has acted as Receiver for the Lyon Group and the Bahamian Oil Refinery in Freeport in the Bahamas."

Another partner of Ernst and Whinney, Mr. Nigel Hamilton, who is joint Receiver with Mr. Mackey visited Gatwick yesterday and saw Laker staff there.



Laker and Skytrain—the image that, with his low fares, endeared him to the travelling public



Aircraft along the Laker air-lanes: above, the Halton (converted RAF Halifax), 1947



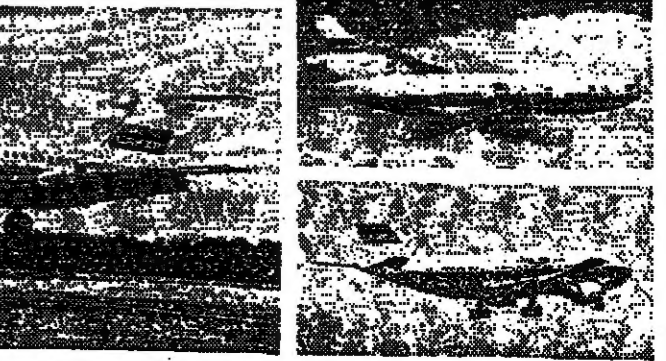
The Carvair, converted DC4 by Aviation Traders, Laker's Southend engineers, for cross-Channel traffic



The BAC-111—Laker bought it for BUA before he went independent



BAC-111 in Laker colours: he also bought VC-10s



The Skytrain DC10 (top) and Laker's Airbus



## PARLIAMENT Feb 5 1981

## British Airways will be sold in spite of Laker's downfall

## AVIATION

The changing rate of the pound for the dollar after he had taken out loans and the world recession in air travel had caused the deterioration in Sir Freddie Laker's traffic figures, Mr. Laker said. Under Secretary of State for Trade said in a speech following a statement on the collapse of Laker Airways.

Mr. Clinton Davis (Hackney Central, Lab), a former junior minister for aviation matters, had asked the minister to look again at the question of an inquiry being held under section 165 of the Companies Act, saving regard to the totally reckless statement made only two days previously by Sir Freddie Laker by which passengers, creditors and others might well have been misled, Mr. Spratt said that he would do so.

The Minister also added that British Caledonian, Pan Am and Florida Airlines had offered to take home stranded Laker passengers.

Mr. Spratt said that in the event that the receiver decides to cease operating flights passengers who have paid for bookings for a package holiday would be protected on the first instance by the bond (guaranteed by the bank) which Laker's tour operating companies provide as a condition of their Air Travel Organisers' licences. This bond would be immediately available to enable alternative arrangements to be made to bring home people who are already abroad.

Those who had booked but not yet travelled could seek compensation from the bond, and if it proved insufficient to meet all legitimate claims from the Air Travel Reserve Fund.

These arrangements would not cover those travelling on Skytrain scheduled services. If Laker services were no longer operating they would have to travel by alternative means. If they had unused tickets they would be in the position of unsecured creditors, unless they could exchange them for valid tickets issued by another airline.

I understand that the receiver is exploring every possibility of minimizing the inconvenience suffered by passengers, and will become clearer when he has had a little more time how this can be done. Travellers affected should be kept informed of any further information in the media.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Barnes and Merton, Lab): Can we be assured holidaymakers will get their money back, that funds are adequate and that the receiver will be made quickly so individuals and families can make alternative holiday arrangements?

The position regarding passengers booked on scheduled services is not clear. How many are there and what can be done?

Would the minister consider it appropriate to appoint an inspector under the powers he has under the Companies Act in order to examine the affairs of recent months?

What does he intend to do about route licences, how many are involved and how many interests of British Airways and our commercial interests to be safeguarded?

Does this not show there is an urgent need to review British aviation policy by the Government. The failure to have any policy makes me feel that I received a few days ago to my questions about the North Atlantic route, were a sham then and are now. Will the minister learn his lesson and bring back to the House a proper review of events and a policy (Labour cheers).

Mr. Spratt: We share his concern about passengers and airlines. It is not a full investigation of the circumstances and report, he has no reason to believe any impropriety has occurred.

As for route licences, at the European level the present Laker Airways had a kind of blanket charter, at the moment running charter flights into five countries of Europe and North Africa — Morocco and Tunisia.

In the United States he was running services to Los Angeles, Miami and Tampa and on these specific licences, the appropriate aviation authority on both sides of the Atlantic — on this side the Civil Aviation Authority — will look at them and see what can be done, and who may apply for licences if Laker Airways give them up.

We remain convinced that we should strive for a better deal for the consumer, that we should persevere our policy of competition and stability for airlines. That has been and will continue to be our policy.

Mr. David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: This pathetic statement by a junior minister will not satisfy us. We have all been conscious of the fact that Sir Freddie Laker and his company were the jewel in the crown of the free market economic theory of the Government.

Mr. Robert Croy (Kingsley, Lab): And the Liberals? Mr. Steel: No, not the Liberals. And they have become the latest victims in the coffin of those theories.

Does the Government still believe the CAA has a duty to balance the needs of the consumer to get competitive air fares, the interests of the taxpayer in the support of British Airways and interests of other airlines?

When are we going to get a statement on aviation policy?

Mr. Spratt: One of the results of our policy in the North Atlantic last year was that three British airlines flying the North Atlantic, carried more passengers and carried more American airlines. That is a tremendous achievement.

It is precisely that balance between stability for the airlines and benefit for the consumer that we intend to continue to pursue.

Mr. Michael Neuber (Havering, Romford, C): Free enterprise is unlikely to be able to compete fairly with state subsidised public corporations in conditions of world recession. It is ironic that British Airways, made a loss of £120m last year and is still flying whereas Laker Airways, with half that debt, is in receivership.

Has there been any response from other British carriers, like BA and British Caledonian, in offering to help Laker passengers?

Mr. Spratt: Sir Freddie is a great man who has done wonderful things for passengers. It is and it will remain the Government's firm policy to privatise BA as soon as practicable. (Labour interruptions and protests.)

BA's pre-tax loss was £141m last year. We have to look closely at how taxpayers' money is being used to fund these nationalised industries.

Having said that, I spoke to Sir John King, the BA chairman, this morning, and to the British Caledonian chairman, Mr. Adam Thompson. Both made generous

statements on how they were going to help with stranded passengers. Mr. Thompson said he would fly passengers back free to the UK if necessary. This shows what free enterprise will do.

Mr. David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab): Many of us would be horrified by Mr. Spratt's threat to privatise BA. It would then, presumably, go down in the same way as Freddie Laker has gone down.

Does the minister not feel any sense of responsibility? If Laker Airways was the prime example of successful private enterprise, why has the Government raised not a finger to save it to preserve the jobs of 2,600 workers and help customers?

Mr. Spratt: It has been our policy to privatise BA since the time. Last year private airlines overall in this country made an overall profit. On making Sir Freddie Laker's financial position was made by officials of Laker Airways to my department and we are not considering it.

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentford and Uxbridge, C): Will he extend discussions beyond British airlines to those in competition with Laker across the Atlantic to bale out passengers who become stranded? What is the position of small travel agents who may have sold advance tickets and may well face claims from passengers?

Mr. Spratt: I will certainly look at the problem of the small travel agents.

Mr. Harry Greenwood (Ealing, North, C): Sir Freddie Laker had been underlining by the fact that state airlines brought their high fares down to the levels he set and they were paid for by state subsidies. This was a disgrace. The taxpayers had paid for their own demise.

Mr. Spratt: It is true that the taxpayer is having to pay vast amounts of money to sustain British Airways. The present Laker Airways had a kind of blanket charter, at the moment running charter flights into five countries of Europe and North Africa — Morocco and Tunisia.

In the United States he was running services to Los Angeles, Miami and Tampa and on these specific licences, the appropriate aviation authority on both sides of the Atlantic — on this side the Civil Aviation Authority — will look at them and see what can be done, and who may apply for licences if Laker Airways give them up.

We remain convinced that we should strive for a better deal for the consumer, that we should persevere our policy of competition and stability for airlines. That has been and will continue to be our policy.

Mr. Michael Hamilton (Salisbury, C), the sponsor, recalled events at Salisbury 15 years ago when what was supposed to be a public inquiry took place behind closed doors. That was disturbing in outlining his campaign he said he

had had staunch allies in his fight including *The Times* which had published letters on the issue and leading articles stating that openness was essential for confidence in planning inquiries.

Debate on the Death Grant (increase) Bill sponsored by Mr. Ernest Ross (Aldershot, West, Lab) was adjourned after Mr. Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, said that once the Government's review of the death grant was complete, either he or the Secretary of State (Mr. Norman Fowler) would make a statement.

**Correction**  
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, said 55 per cent of black youth in Britain was unemployed, not 65 per cent as stated in yesterday's Parliamentary report.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Civilians ousted in Surinam



Paramaribo. — Surinam's National Military Council announced that it had re-assumed direct rule, after the resignation of President Henck Chin A Sen and his cabinet.

The Council said that the move followed "policy disagreements", but it gave no details.

The Council has ruled the former Dutch colony, on the north coast of South America, since seizing power in February, 1980. Dr. Chin A Sen's mainly civilian Government was ousted with the support of the army in August of that year, but the Council continued to exercise control over the country.

A four-man military committee has taken over the day-to-day administration. It is headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Deyl Bouterse, the Army Commander and chairman of the National Military Council. Colonel Bouterse has said that a new civilian government will be formed "as soon as possible".

## Report on May case 'imminent'

Camerino, Italy. — A British doctor will perform a new post-mortem examination on the remains of Mrs. Jeanette May and her Italian friend, Signora Gabriella Guerin, to determine the cause of the two women's deaths.

Dr. Keith Simpson, a Home Office pathologist, expects to make the results public over the weekend, according to the Italian police. They have denied Italian press reports that the women might have been strangled. Spots of blood found on Mrs. May's neck vertebrae could have been caused by the decomposition of the bodies or by mud, the police said.

## Ugandan MP shot dead

Nairobi. — Gummi in Kampala have shot dead Mr. George Bamukama, a leading opposition MP, and Mr. Z. Okaka, general manager of Uganda's National Housing and Construction Corporation.

At least six others were injured when the gunmen opened fire on three sitting outside a bar in the Kampala district, two miles from the city centre. Mr. Bamukama was the Democratic Party's shadow minister of lands, minerals and water resources.

## Truman's Oval Office bugged

Washington. — Harry Truman has joined Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon as a President believed to have been bugged in the Oval Office during Truman's time but not necessarily with his consent. "They are really untrustworthy," he said.

## Mugabe holds merger talks

Salisbury. — Mr. Robert Mugabe and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, accompanied by senior aides, had three hours of talks which centred on the possibility of merging Zimbabwe's two main political parties. (Stephen Taylor writes.)

Mr. Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said recently that he was to have talks about a merger with the Patriotic Front but Mr. Nkomo sharply denied that talks had been scheduled.

## Ex-terrorist freed

Rome. — Carlo Fiorini, the first convicted terrorist to collaborate with the Italian police, has been released from prison in Matera. He was sentenced to 27 years' jail for his part in 1974 in a fatal kidnapping, but on appeal his sentence was reduced to 10 years.

## American Castro

Miami. — Dr. Fidel Castro's younger sister, Juanita, aged 48, became a United States citizen in a ceremony at a Miami auditorium. Miss Castro supported her brother's Cuban revolution before he took power in 1959, but turned against him soon afterwards and came to the United States by way of Mexico in 1964.

## Road to Tibet

Hongkong. — China will provide about £14.5m, and technical aid to help to repair 16 miles of the road linking Nepal and Tibet damaged by floods four months ago.

## Bundestag majority of 43

## Schmidt wins confidence vote

From James Hutchinson, Bonn, Feb 5

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today won a resounding parliamentary victory for his coalition Government's domestic and foreign policies. Without exception, the coalition deputies — 216 Social Democrats and 53 Free Democrats — voted in the Bundestag in favour of the Chancellor's motion for a vote of confidence.

This gave the Government a majority of 43 over the Christian Democratic Opposition. The result was greeted with prolonged applause from the coalition benches.

But predictably, the Opposition says the vote proves nothing, except that the Government is in desperate straits.

Herr Schmidt took the unusual step on Wednesday of asking for a vote of confidence after he had launched a three-year (DM12,500m) programme to fight unemployment, which has now reached almost two million. But he made it clear in the Bundestag that was asking for support not only for the jobs programme, but for the whole range of Government policy.

His intention, he said, was to clarify the course of the coalition's economic and peace policies both at home and on the international scene. He admitted that the necessary clarity had been missing in recent weeks, not least because of squabbles within the coalition about the measures to promote investment.

Voters, he said, needed to be sure that the four-year mandate given to the Government in 1980 would indeed be carried out, and that this mandate was based on a sound parliamentary majority. West Germany's allies and the East European states must be left in no doubt as to where the Government stood.

"I am asking for confidence," he said, "in the continuity and reliability of my foreign and domestic policies."

He claimed that in the 12 years of his existence, the coalition had not only worked successfully for peace and understanding, but had also made economic progress and promoted social progress and consensus.

International economic setbacks, tension in East-West relations, and the danger of an arms race had taken the Government to the stocks of its position. "The result of its stocktaking is that we shall stay on course not only for weeks or months, but in the long term."

But the Chancellor's motive in involving his constitutional right to ask for a vote of confidence was not merely to clear up doubts about his government's policies. He wanted both to demonstrate his parliamentary strength and to show up the Opposition in a bad light. At a time of rampant unemployment the Christian Democrats' rejection of much of the programme will not be popular.

Dr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, declared that the Chancellor had lost the trust of most Germans. The Government was weak, he claimed, and was hanging on to office. Dr Kohl's assessment was only partly correct. Herr Schmidt is still the most popular politician in the country, but the opinion polls show that his Government would lose an election now.

The last Chancellor to ask for a vote of confidence was Herr Willy Brandt in 1972.

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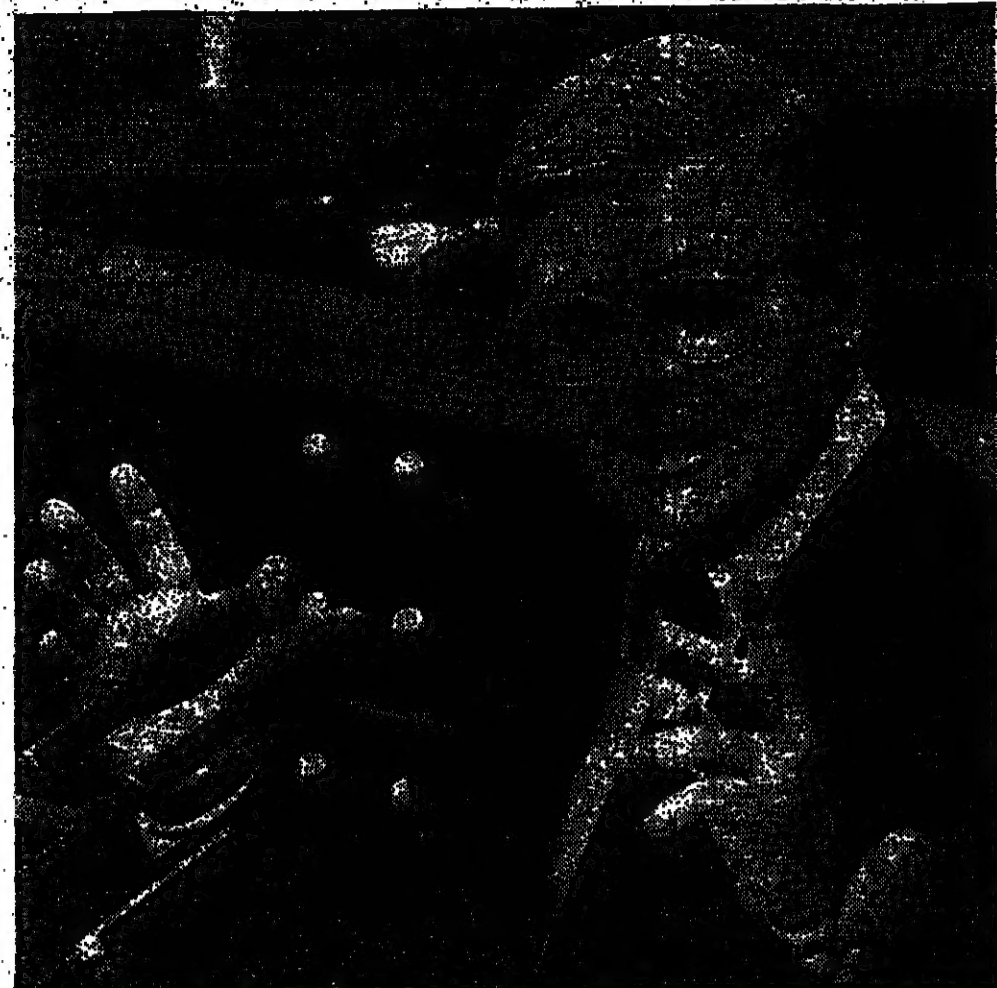
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Firmly on course: The West German Chancellor in the Bundestag yesterday.

## Soviet general expelled

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 5

The most senior military officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington has been expelled from the United States for "activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status".

The State Department said that Major-General Vasily Chitov had been expelled for "activities inconsistent with his diplomatic status".

Mr. William Webster, the FBI Director, has complained recently about the increase in the number of diplomatic personnel in Washington. They are particularly interested in information about American high technology.

The General was said to have been caught with incriminating documents in his possession. However, he was not arrested and charged with espionage as he was protected by diplomatic immunity.

General Chitov, who is a member of the GRU, the Soviet military intelligence agency, was in charge of a large staff of military specialists at the Soviet Embassy.

Another three are believed to be 250 Soviet diplomatic personnel involved in gathering intelligence in Washington. They are particularly interested in information about American high technology.

The last Soviet official to be expelled from the United States was Mr. Vladimir Popov, a third secretary, who was forced to leave because of his contacts with a former CIA officer, Mr. David Barnett.

The State Department has refused to speculate about whether the Soviet might retaliate by expelling a member of the United States Embassy staff in Moscow.

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## Atlanta police 'saw ghosts'

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From Neil Sutherland, Atlanta, Feb 5

Vital police witnesses in the Wayne Williams trial saw ghosts, drank beer and slept while on duty and were otherwise indisposed to the defence's case.

Mr. Williams, a 26-year-old black man, was charged with the murders of two of the 25 young blacks whose bodies have been discovered since 1979.

A former police recruit, Mr. Kenneth Lawson, told the judge that he had been assigned to watch bridges where many of the bodies were found. He said he saw evidence about his "fellow recruits" who claim to have heard the night watchman, Mr. Williams, talking to the ghost of a woman.

"They used to tell ghost stories on the bridge," he said. "I couldn't count the number of times they spoke of ghosts. It got to be a joke among all the recruits," he said.

Mr. Lawson said that on one occasion the top prosecution witness, Captain James E. Ray, had been seen "saw a 'hazy white figure' by the river bank and a white (action) team was sent in."

"The white figure came back and said that he had seen a ghost," he said. "They thought it was quite humorous," the witness said.

He told the court that he knew the other two recruits well and they had admitted to him they would sleep while they were on duty. "They were afraid of the dark and being in the woods alone," he said.

The witness said the two recruits were not able to make their night duties more comfortable. "I once spoke to one of them about drinking beer on duty and he indicated they had some alcohol with them," he stated.

The defence is expected to make some "witness reliability" piece by piece the prosecution case created by more than 100 witnesses.

At yesterday's meeting, representatives of the 12 Nato states reviewed plans to protest about repression in Poland at the opening session. Poland will be in the chair for the day at Tuesday's meeting.

Spain, the host nation, indicated yesterday that it favours a brief session when the conference resumes, lasting about two weeks and then adjourning until the autumn.

The second, more complicated task was to strengthen the foundations of the state which had been eroded by 18 months of counter-revolutionary activity. "The successful resolution of these vital problems depends — and this is quite clear — on the PUPP (Communist Party) on the 'decisiveness' and

consistency of its action," it said.

The report, from the newspaper's Warsaw correspondent, implicitly endorsed the present purge of liberals and reformers from the party and suggested that the process should be carried through thoroughly.

At meetings of party activists the main subject of debate is strengthening of party ranks, their consolidation on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the intensification of unity, and readiness to take the offensive in party work," *Pravda* said.

The Polish Communist Party lost a large proportion of its membership during the 18 months of reform which followed the 1980 summer strikes and many liberals have left the party of been expelled since the military crackdown.

## NATO PLAN FOR MADRID TACTICS

By Our Foreign Staff

Nato diplomats met in Brussels yesterday to discuss the East-West security talks in Madrid next week, with the United States advocating a break in the dialogue because of the Polish crisis.

The 28-nation European security conference, called to review progress in East-West détente, resumes next Tuesday after a two-month Christmas break.

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## More shots in Graham Greene's private war

From Jonathan Penry, Nice, Feb 5

The man who unwittingly unleashed Graham Greene's onslaught (first disclosed in a letter to *The Times* on January 25) on alleged criminal police and judicial corruption in this Riviera city today called on the writer to confront him with proof of his accusations.

Speaking in his lawyer's office, the former husband of a woman whose case, Mr. Greene says, illustrates the "satanic" grip on Nice, insisted that he had an answer to all the allegations against him.

He had not treated his former television announcer wife badly, he said. He was not linked to the underworld. He had a psychiatrist's report proving that he was not a violent character, and sworn statements from 20 neighbours to show that he was a loving father who only cared for the welfare of his daughters.

On the other hand, he insisted, he was the victim of a "witch-hunt" conducted by his former wife's family and his friend Graham Greene. This was "nothing new," he said. In April, 1980, he had taken the trouble to write to the prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes department complaining about "the indescribable attitude of any ex-family-in-law and of Mr. Graham Greene."

The author, he said in the letter, had threatened to use the press against him after having already brought high-level pressure to bear to get a "recovery" order by an investigator from Paris into allegations that he had held a mistress prisoner and had beaten her up, breaking her nose.

The 41-year-old man refused to allow his full name to be used, preferring to be known simply as "Daniel". Slim, and dark haired, he introduced himself sardonically to me this morning as "the famous mafiosi".

His lawyer, Maître Patrick Lorenzi, said legal proceedings were being started against a French newspaper which had named his client's firm and that other legal actions would probably follow. He said he was not sure whether Mr. Greene might be included among them.

Through the two and a half hour conversation with me and two French reporters, Daniel maintained the perfect picture of injured innocence. He said he had a criminal record, but insisted it had been a youthful folly and was now behind him.

As for the main matter raised by Mr. Greene in a letter to *The Times* 10 days ago and in an interview with the *Sunday Times* last week, Daniel insisted that he had never known Mr. Greene to be involved in any of the alleged activities. He had benefited from an amnesty and could have a clean legal sheet as a result.

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## White S African doctor dies in police detention

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 5

A young white trade unionist, detained under South Africa's stringent anti-terrorist laws, was found dead in his cell at Security police headquarters in Johannesburg early today.

The police said that Dr Neil Aggett had hanged himself. It is the first known death in a South African prison since Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, died in September, 1977, from injuries sustained while being held for interrogation.

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations, Dr Aggett is the forty-sixth person to have died in security police custody since 1963 when the institute began keeping records. He is also believed to be the first white detainee to have died.

Dr Aggett, who was the Transvaal secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, was found dead only a day after Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Police, had assured Parliament that all reasonable precautions were being taken to see that detainees were prevented from "hurting themselves or being hurt in any other way or committing suicide".

The official statement by the Commissioner of Police, General Mike Geldenhuys, read as follows: "We confirm Dr Neil Aggett (aged 27) was being held in terms of Section 6 (1) of the Terrorism Act in the police cells at John Vorster Square.

"At 1.30am, February 5, he was found hanged in his cell and everything indicates that he committed suicide. When he was visited in the cell 30 minutes before he was discovered dead, everything was in order. His father and sister were informed of his death and an inquest investigation is being conducted by the CID of the South African police. The docket will be forwarded to the Attorney General of the Transvaal as soon as possible.

In a telegram to Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee said it was appalled at Dr Aggett's death, which "confirms that detention and interrogation place intolerable pressures on detainees".

The committee asked why detainees should want to hurt themselves. "If it were not because of lengthy detention in solitary confinement, intolerable pressure of interrogation under bullying, threatening and even blackmail conditions, without any recourse to outside help."

Dr Aggett was detained last November in a police roundup of politically active trade unionists, students, and church leaders. He was first held under provisions allowing detention for up to 14 days without trial but then re-detained under the notorious Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

This makes it possible for people to be held incommunicado and without charge indefinitely if police suspect they possess information relating to security offences or which could be used as material evidence against others charged with such offences.

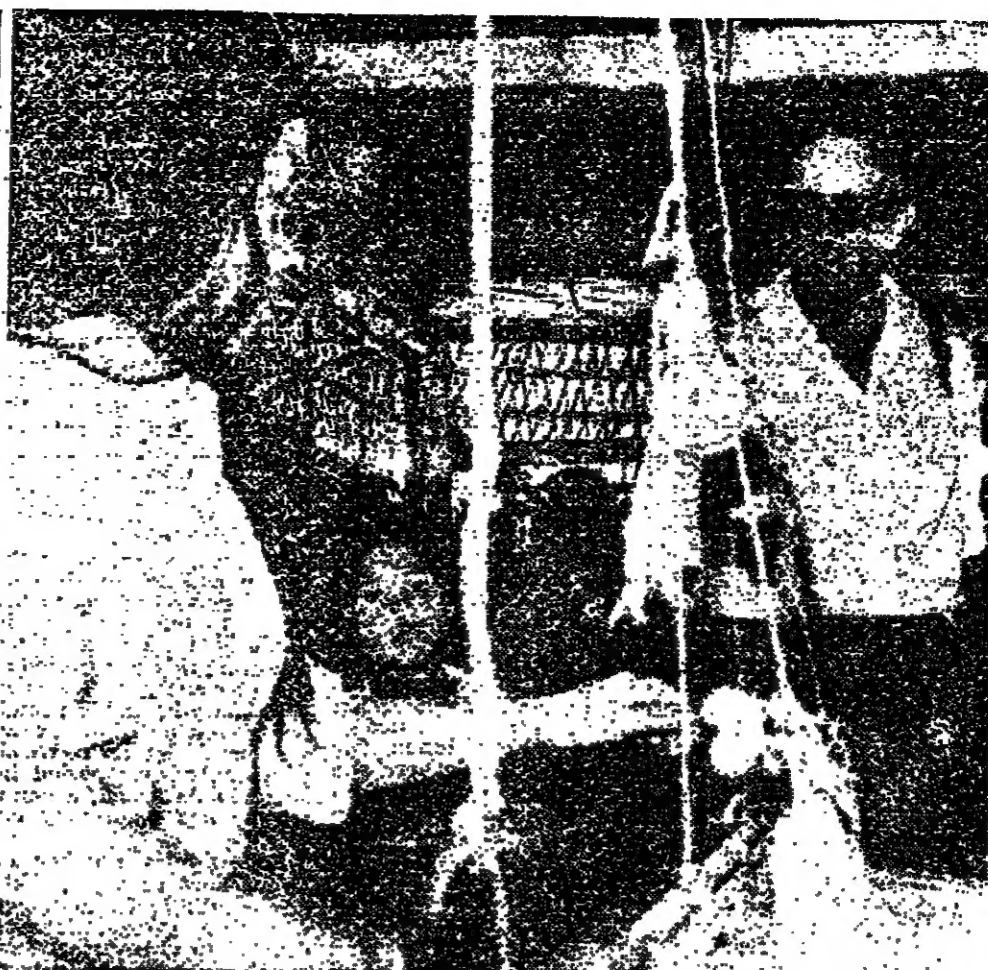
In parliament earlier this week, Mr Le Grange told MPs to expect a big trial of detainees later this year, but gave no further details. He also said that 133 persons were being held under the security laws, not counting those in 14-day detention.

Friends, relatives and trade union colleagues of Dr Aggett, who trained as a doctor at the University of Cape Town, today described him as very stable and the last person they would have expected to kill himself.

"I would say he was a remarkably stable kind of a guy. Either he was subjected to pressure beyond belief or he was killed," Mr David Lewis, secretary of the General Workers' Union, said.

Dr Aggett's own union is one of a small number of multiracial, though predominantly black, independent and unregistered trade unions which have become more militant in the past two years. They are subjected to constant police harassment.

A statement issued by Mr Jan Theron, the general secretary of the union said: "No inquiry by the police or their minister will convince our union or the thousands of workers he represented that Neil Aggett took his own life."



Shells greet Carrington

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, watching a Cambodian girl refugee operating a loom at a refugee centre near the Thai-Cambodian border yesterday.

In the hour before Lord Carrington, who is on an official visit to Thailand, arrived at the camp at Nong Chan two Vietnamese shells came crashing in and a resistance fighter stepped on a landmine just across the border in Cambodia, injuring himself badly (David Watts writes from Nong Chan).

Terrified women were late to pick up their food at a regular distribution, fearful of more Vietnamese shells, and Thai Red Cross workers preparing to meet the Foreign Secretary missed his arrival when they took the unfortunate guerrilla to hospital.

The life of the refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border was going on much as it has done since the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in 1979. Only the camps have taken on a permanent air.

Lord Carrington saw carefully cultivated plots of vegetables not far from the neat rows of reed huts that are home to more than 40,000 refugees at Nong Chan. Nothing could better symbolize the impasse between the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and Vietnam over the situation in Cambodia.

The Nong Chan camp is on the border and the Vietnamese army front line was only two miles away from the Foreign Secretary.

Lord and Lady Carrington saw food being distributed to some 13,000 Cambodian women and girls, a special feeding programme for young mothers and the hospital area. The Foreign Secretary was pleasantly surprised by the apparent order and cleanliness. "It's surprisingly unsmelly", he said at one point.

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## Banks battle ends without tears

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 5

The great parliamentary battle over nationalization, which began in the Autumn, ended today to the undisguised relief of both the Government and Opposition.

The new Bill transferring to state ownership five industrial groups and 36 private banks, which took into account the objections of the Constitutional Court to the first Bill, was finally adopted. At its third reading by the National Assembly this afternoon.

The Bill has yet to overcome a final hurdle. The Opposition in the Assembly has referred it for a second time to the Constitutional Court on the grounds that it infringes the basic law. Under the emergency procedure which the Government has adopted, the court has a week to render its verdict.

The opinion of experts is that this time it will raise no objections. The law could therefore be promulgated around the middle of this month.

The Opposition fought a rearguard action against the Bill without much conviction, and gave up the idea of a repeat performance of the battle of amendments which had marked the debate on the first Bill. The Government was reluctant to resort once again to the blocked vote, but used the threat of it. Along with the emergency procedure, to get the Bill through.

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## Coup trial demand for 30-year sentences

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 5

The chief military prosecutor in the forthcoming trial of Army officers accused of involvement in last February's coup attempt has presented his main charges to the defence lawyers and demanded 30 years' imprisonment each for the main defendants.

This is the maximum sentence for military rebellion, and conviction would also mean dismissal from the Army. The prosecutor's demand comes after 11 months of investigations.

Those facing 30 years are Lieutenant General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former captain-general of Valencia; General Alfonso Armada, the former deputy chief of the Army; and Colonel Antonio Tejero, the officer commanding the Civil Guards whose seizure of Parliament on February 23 went on television round the world.

General Jose Claver Torrente, the prosecutor, has decided to reduce the sentences demanded for a major who was General Milans's aide, and for the sole civilian among the 33 charged, Señor Juan Garcia Carres, from 12 years' jail to 10.

Reductions of three to four years are also sought on a total of 23 accused, chiefly Civil Guard captains and lieutenants.

The prosecution's conclusions were passed by defence lawyers to a local news agency. They will form the basis of the opening prosecution statement at the trial, the date for which has yet to be fixed by the Supreme Council of Military Justice. The date generally expected is February 18.

One of General Claver Torrente's most significant conclusions is that General Armada, a former close aide of King Juan Carlos, allegedly agreed the coup plot with General Milans at the meeting in Valencia on January 10 last year.

The Government is taking very seriously intelligence reports that hardline elements of the politico-military wing of the Basque separatist group ETA have decided to return to acts of violence, after suspending them at the time of the coup attempt.

The Cabinet's special committee on the security of the state, chaired by the Prime Minister and only set up in December, analyzed the reports last night.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Deployment of SS20s boosted

Bonn. — West Germany said yesterday that the Soviet Union's arsenal of medium-range nuclear missile warheads had reached an all-time high and there was no sign Moscow had stopped deploying its SS20 missiles.

Herr Lothar Ruehl, a government spokesman, quoting latest Western satellite intelligence, said the Kremlin had now deployed 280 of the triple-warhead missiles, with a total of 840 warheads. Five more firing bases were still waiting to be equipped, he said, and each base contained nine missile launchers.

The Soviet Union was slowly withdrawing its obsolete single-warhead SS4 and SS5 missiles; but 300 of these were still deployed, he said.

### Deng attacks bureaucracy

Peking. — Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who has not been seen in public for more than three weeks, has given a speech on trimming China's top-heavy bureaucracy, official Chinese sources said.

The sources, speaking after speculation about Mr Deng's whereabouts, said he had given the speech in Peking during the past two weeks. Official announcements have constantly said China's key leader was in the best of health without saying where he was.

### Cabinet changes by Nyerere

Dar es Salaam. — President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania has announced extensive changes in his Cabinet including the dismissal of Mr Joseph Mungai, the Agriculture Minister.

The new Agriculture Minister is Mr John Baptist Machunda, formerly an associate professor of agriculture at Dar es Salaam University.

### Italian kidnapped

Pistoia. — Four bandits armed with pistols and a sub-machine gun kidnapped Signor Osvaldo Ferretti, an industrialist, from his factory. They dragged him into a lorry after tying up two employees, Italian police said.

## Mercenaries accused of treason in Seychelles

Victoria, Seychelles, Feb 5 — Seven foreigners, including a Briton, accused of participating in an unsuccessful mercenary invasion of the Seychelles, were today charged with treason, an offence punishable by death.

The six white men and a South African woman, alleged to have been accomplices, are the first people to be charged with treason in the Seychelles. They were captured after a battle for the international airport here between a mercenary force and local troops on November 25.

There had been doubts among legal experts whether foreigners could be charged with treason but Mr Bernard Rassool, the Attorney-General maintained that the law covered foreign nationals as

well as the people of Seychelles.

The seven accused — four South Africans, two white Zimbabweans and a Briton — were also charged, in the Supreme Court with waging or preparing to wage war against the Seychelles. The death sentence for treason is not mandatory but there has been public pressure for the mercenaries' execution.

Forty-five mercenaries involved in the abortive Seychelles coup have been warned not to cooperate under any circumstances with the special United Nations commission investigating it, the *Rand Daily Mail* said today (AFP reports). The three-man commission arrives in Johannesburg today for talks with South African security officials.

## RUSSIANS' BOSPORUS BUMPS

From Our Correspondent, Ankara, Feb 5

Three Soviet merchant ships have been involved in collisions in the Bosphorus this week, highlighting the increasing need for international mandatory rules to regulate the passage through the narrow strait.

Today a Soviet cargo ship, laden with ammonia, rammed into a moored cargo ship at Istanbul port and then struck a military pier where Nato installations are located.

Yesterday, in a blizzard, a head-on collision occurred between two Soviet cargo ships, Chernigov and Izhora, in the busy waterway joining the Black Sea with the Mediterranean.

On Wednesday, the Soviet ship Profsyuryz rammed a moored Turkish ship.



Tomorrow...  
Claire Bloom on the man  
who wasn't afraid  
to share the limelight.



Picture it... On the one hand, Hollywood's most famous and accomplished actor/director. At 62, hounded for his political beliefs and yet loved the world over, he is about to embark on the creation of his masterpiece.

On the other, a beautiful, talented and almost completely unknown young English actress. She is 'discovered'; her photograph is sent to the States, and within a year her name is up in lights — next to his.

It sounds more strange and improbable than Hollywood's most romantic fiction. But the truth, of course, often is.

Claire Bloom's account of her own meteoric rise from obscurity to fame, 'Limelight and After', makes fascinating reading.

Not the least for its insight into Chaplin during the making of 'Limelight'.

Glamour, romance, tenderness, fear... young and over-awed, Claire Bloom played a willing subject to Chaplin's Svengali.

She played Theresa to his Calvero. And in her heart, she played Juliet to his Romeo. Read all about it. In the first of a two-part serialisation in the Sunday Times. Tomorrow.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



# The girl I saw become a Queen

Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the Throne 30 years ago today. Sir Harold Wilson, who headed four administrations under her, pays a personal tribute.

Just 30 years ago today, on February 6, 1952, we were summoned, the 100-odd members of the Privy Council, to St James's Palace in Westminster to proclaim the accession to the royal throne of the Princess Elizabeth, following the sudden death of her royal father, King George VI.

At the time of His Majesty's death, Her Royal Highness, with her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was in Kenya, ready to proceed to India. As soon as news of the King's death reached her, she and the Duke flew to Entebbe in Uganda, where a British aircraft was waiting to bring her home.

On her arrival she went straightaway to the Accession Council where, in the most moving ceremony I can recall, she referred to her father's death and pledged herself to continue his dedication to uphold constitutional government, and his work of reconciliation and the promotion of constitutional government and the happiness and prosperity of his — now her — people.

I had the honour of serving Her Majesty during four administrations. (Glasgow, by the time he reached the age of 94, had also headed four, though the last was a coalition with the Southern Irish MPs at Westminster).

Our constitutional procedure is simple. It works not least because we live by experience and history and are spared the unworkable complications of a legalistic written constitution on Continental lines. When the outgoing Prime Minister, defeated in a general election, goes to the Palace to surrender his seals of office, the Monarch sends for the Leader of the Opposition; that is, if he clearly has a majority, or is capable of achieving one by agreement with other parties such as the Liberals.

The traditional formula is: "Can you form a government?" to which the traditional answer is a hurried affirmation. The alternative, in a hung election, is: "Your Majesty, I will go along and try" — meaning that he will seek allies in the House to give him a parliamentary majority, or at least the chance of one.

In the first case the sovereign informally tells her visitor that he is Prime Minister; in the second, he begins work on urgent problems while entering into treaty discussions with possible allies. Should all parties, and groupings of them, fail to create a working majority, it would be her responsibility to call another election on, of course, the advice of the last potential prime minister she has been able to unearth.

It is not her duty to assess whether a potential prime minister can form a government — that is his duty. After the "hung" election of 1974, when Edward Heath's government had failed to record a majority, British democracy stood still, while Ted vainly sought an understanding with the Liberals. The monarchy in Britain has gone through great vicissitudes in popular esteem and enthusiasm for more than a thousand years. There have been wars and rebellions, great clashes between dynastic contenders for the throne, breakaway monarchies, civil conflict and, indeed, international wars over the right of kingship (and in the case of the first Queen Elizabeth, queenship) were bitterly and sometimes bloodily contested.

Just a hundred years ago,

when Britain's sovereignty reigned unchallenged across the five continents, Queen Victoria lived alone and withdrawn, portrayed by a leading poet as *The Widow at Windsor* swathed in her black mourning, little seen by her people.

There was even in the country an undercurrent of Republicanism and inevitably ambitious or disillusioned men sought to exercise their constitutional imagination as they drafted paper constitutions.

Some commentators, even in text-books, seem to suggest that the Queen's role in constitutional and political matters is purely mechanical, simply acquiescing in documents from Downing Street and the automatic confirmation of the "Royal Assent" to legislation passed by the two Houses of Parliament. Such judgments are rooted in ignorance. For centuries now the royal role is not that of a "figurehead" to "advise, to encourage and to warn" has been a key element in our unwritten constitution. When the Queen graciously visited Downing Street and dined with Cabinet Ministers on the eve of my resignation in 1976, I recorded that she had already "seen off" more United Kingdom Prime Ministers, to say nothing of the rest of her Commonwealth, than had Queen Victoria, at a corresponding point in her reign. Again, she has probably visited more Commonwealth countries than all her predecessors taken together. It is extremely rare for any territory to achieve nationhood without her being there for the ceremony. How many prime ministers have visited

Nauru? How many could point to it on the globe without requiring a thousand miles tolerance? How many could have waxed eloquent on Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Seychelles or Grenada, as she could?

The centrepiece of every Commonwealth conference held in London during her reign has been her dinner party at the Palace: not only that, every head of government will have been invited for a separate personal audience. When, on the day of Winston Churchill's funeral service, Ian Smith of Rhodesia failed to arrive at her lunch for Commonwealth leaders she despatched an equestrian to summon him from the lunch-table at St Ermin's Hotel.

For many years, Commonwealth Heads of Government Conferences were invariably held in London. I had secured agreement that the 1971 conference should be held in Singapore, and arrangements were made for the Queen to go there in Britannia. She was greatly looking forward to it, but following the General Election of that year and Edward Heath's victory, his Cabinet, I was told, withdrew the recommendation.

From then on, other Commonwealth countries hosted the conferences and after my return to Downing Street the first I attended was in Jamaica, to which Britannia proceeded. In place of the Palace, the Queen's party for the heads of government was on board her royal yacht. Photographers came to take a group picture and as 30 of us sat to be taken and silence reigned, Prince Philip, quite audibly com-

mented: "To think that world peace depends on this lot". Never have so many prime ministers been photographed together laughing so uproariously.

Nor are her preoccupations entirely concerned with the Britain of the 1980s. From earliest days, she has taken the greatest care in planning the Prince of Wales's education. He went not to one of the historic English schools, Eton, Harrow, or Rugby, but to Gordonstoun in Scotland, a modern foundation with a first-class scholastic record.

He then went, after the Queen had informally consulted party leaders, to her father's old college in Cambridge for a time following this by a period at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, in his principality — a decision greatly welcomed by the Welsh people. Another period he spent in Australia, a country he has vigorously explored.

Following a number of discussions at my weekly prime ministerial audience with the Queen, it was decided to give him experience of public administration in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's powerhouse in Whitehall, and in a number of Government departments. He also familiarized himself with the workings of local government in the councils of our towns and countries, and increasingly, with industry.

He had, of course, a long stint in the Armed Forces, becoming captain of warship and also an experienced helicopter pilot. Although the Queen's peoples at home and abroad hope that this preparation is for a far-distant future, it can safely be said that no future monarch has ever received training, experience and encouragement of comparable width and depth.

On the eve of his resignation as Prime Minister in March 1976, Harold Wilson greets the Queen, arriving at No. 10 Downing Street for a farewell dinner.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1982

Geoffrey Smith

## Will the Liberals gently walk off with the swag?

A dozen leaders of the Social Democrats and the Liberals will be meeting this week in Oxfordshire to discuss the alliance's long-term plans and prospects for the election, and significantly beyond. They are right to examine these critical issues now, but if the alliance is to have any long-term future it will first have to solve its immediate difficulties over the allocation of parliamentary seats.

It has reached the position where it seems the prospect of alluring fortune ahead if only it can decide how to divide the spoils. Yet this is proving a slow and arduous task because each party is surveying the scene from a different angle.

For the Social Democrats there is the nagging fear that while they will contribute most to whatever success the alliance wins, it will be the Liberals who will make off with most of the booty. It is the coming of the SDP that has transformed the face of British politics, yet because of the way that seats are being shared out there is a serious possibility of there being significantly more Liberals than Social Democrats in the next Parliament.

It was because of this fear that Mr William Rodgers, the chief SDP negotiator, decided at the beginning of the year that the time had come to blow the whistle. Unfortunately he seemed to swallow it instead. The impression was given of hard-nosed professional politicians of the SDP roughing up those nice Liberals, who once again were being too gentle by half. It is a picture that can be recognized only at a distance. The closer one gets the more one is struck by how effectively the gentle Liberals are managing to take care of themselves.

The Liberals have a number of interests to secure. The first is to ride the Social Democratic tide. Of course, they would never dream of putting it like that. But the emergence of the Social Democrats has brought a surge of new support for the centre of British politics: the Liberals naturally want to take advantage of it, but they have been afraid that they might be swept aside in the onrush of the SDP.

The alliance therefore suits the Liberal purpose ideally. It has in fact become a necessity for both parties. But while the Social Democrats might hope to break through on their own, the Liberals know in their hearts that this would be impossible for them.

Another Liberal interest is to see that it is a Liberal candidate who represents the alliance in those constituencies where the party has done particularly well in the past, or has an especially lively organization or zealous candidate. The right of local autonomy within the party

also has to be safeguarded, otherwise all hell will break out in the Liberal ranks.

When it was finally decided on January 26 to resume negotiations on the allocation of seats, the task of the negotiators was to reconcile these Liberal interests with the SDP demand for an equal share of winnable seats, preferably secured by laying down sufficiently precise guidelines at national level. The way they did so provides a fascinating insight into the oblique nature of many political decisions.

They agreed first to aim for equal representation of the two parties in the next Parliament on the basis of what they regarded as the middling outcome for the alliance: 200 seats. So far so good. But how was such a broad principle to be applied?

The Liberals insisted that they had 40 to 50 seats, excluding those held by sitting MPs, which they must fight. The Social Democrats accepted this, with a slight variation. They acknowledged that the Liberals should have first call on

The SDP feel that it is easy enough to persuade

Mr Steel to be fair, not so easy for him to persuade his team of national negotiators...

some 50 seats, including those held by their MPs. In recognition of this concession the SDP should, so they claimed, have two seats to each one for the Liberals in the next best 150 otherwise there would not be an equal share of the best 200.

But the Liberals maintained that if sitting MPs were to be included on one side, so should they be on the other. The 27 seats now held by sitting Liberal MPs should be balanced against those where the Liberals were to have first call. There would not therefore be all that much leeway for the SDP to make up in order to gain a fair share of the best 200 seats.

But the critical question was whether the Social Democrats were to have a two to one advantage in the second group of seats, no matter whether that group was to number 150 or whatever. The Liberal response to that claim can best be expressed in the old Scottish phrase: "I hear you." They didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. Some Liberals believe that they did agree, but if so it was with

such delicacy and discretion that it escaped some of their own colleagues.

There was, however, at least an understanding. But it was an unwritten understanding. No terms of the treaty were set out in precise words: that would have been awkward for the Liberals with their local parties. Nor were any lists produced of the Liberals' top 50 seats, or the next 150 seats, or any permutations of the figures: that would have been even more awkward for the Liberals. But if the details are left so unspecified how can such an agreement be implemented in the various regional negotiations?

It would be relatively easy if in each region the SDP could be given the appropriate number of silver seats to compensate for the Liberals' golden ones in that same region.

The country is not divided so neatly, though, that it is always possible to strike the necessary balance within a region. There have to be trade-offs between regions as well. That is where the difficulty arises with the Liberal insistence on local autonomy. The SDP feel that it is easy enough to persuade Mr David Steel to be fair, not so easy for him to persuade his team of national negotiators to persuade local Liberal negotiators.

There are bound to be problems in inducing local Liberal seats to adhere to undertakings which their national negotiators are not prepared to acknowledge publicly that they have given. So they come back to the broad principle that both parties openly accept: equal representation in the next Parliament on the basis of 200 seats.

But the implementation of that principle is further complicated by the conflicting calculations as to what are the best seats for the alliance — with the Liberals complaining that the Social Democrats attach too much importance to past Liberal performance and therefore want to pinch all the best Liberal seats, and the SDP responding that the Liberals want to keep all the best alliance seats for themselves because there is a strong Liberal organization there.

The difficulties will probably be resolved in the end simply because it is in the interest of both parties to reach agreement. But it will be on terms that will give the Liberals a good chance of being rather the larger party in the next Parliament.

The Social Democrats will not be able to translate their greater strength in the count-down into a dominating position in the House of Commons. The two parties will have to live with each other as broadly equal parliamentary forces. This is the prospect that the leaders will have to bear in mind as they lay their plans for the future this weekend in Oxfordshire. I

From Mr Gerald Long  
Mr A. Roux,  
Le Gavroche Restaurant,  
London W1.

Dear Mr Roux,

I dined recently at your restaurant Le Gavroche for the first time. I would like to draw your attention to

The large selection of cheeses was presented as specially chosen for Le Gavroche by a French cheese expert, and consisting of only French farmhouse cheeses.

This last expression surprised me, since it would in my experience be difficult to make such an absolute claim for any cheese board of such variety, here or in France, if one were to translate the rather vague word "farmhouse" as "de fabrication fermière", which has a precise meaning.

A suggested that at least one cheese I could see described as a St Paulin, was produced industrially. This met at first with an indignant response from your waiter, who then retreated into "if Monsieur knows cheese better than I do, then of course 'maître' is right", a quiet arrogance which was typical of most of the service throughout the evening.

Checking in the Androuet Guide du Fromage, I find under St Paulin, a cheese which is, according to Androuet, produced all over France, the note: "Fabrication: de petite, moyenne ou grande industrie".

Mimolette, which your waiter said he had but was not on the board, has the note: "Fabrication: aujourd'hui totalement industrielle".

Pride in what you offer to your guests is natural and to be respected, to the extent of course that what you offer is good. The cheeses were perfectly respectable, if unremarkable, and, for my taste, too numerous.

I doubt whether you would wish to take refuge behind the probably undefinable term "farmhouse"; if you do, of course, there is no more to be said except that such an attitude would not be consistent with the most rigorous standards.

If you do not seek refuge in ambiguity, I would suggest that you might wish to moderate the claims made on behalf of your cheeses.

In case others might share my view that such precision is a characteristic of the best restaurants, I will send a copy of this letter to Michelin.

Yours faithfully,  
Gerald Long,  
November 5, 1981.

From Mr A. H. Roux  
Mr G. Long,  
London EC1

Dear Mr Long,

Thank you for your most courteous letter of 5th November.

I always appreciate it very much indeed when customers take the trouble to write to me with their experiences. I usually reply to such letters immediately, but on this occasion, before replying to you, I wanted to consult Maitre Philippe Olivier, who supplies our cheese exclusively. Although I enjoy my cheese, I do not profess to be

Eating out in Britain has been given a welcome stimulus this year with the unprecedented award of the Michelin three-star accolade to a London restaurant, Le Gavroche. The Times will be reviewing a selection of celebrated restaurants in London and round the rest of Britain — through the discriminating palates of two distinguished European

food writers, M. Robert Courtine and Herr Gert von Paczensky — in a special series beginning next Saturday, when Herr Paczensky will be introduced by Gerald Long. While Le Gavroche was being vetted for its three-star award, Mr Long was, as it happens, engaged in genial discussion with its proprietor, Mr Albert Roux. These are their exchanges:

an authority on it, and felt that I could not answer your letter adequately without prior consultation.

The St Paulin cheese you refer to is more specifically known as 'Bellevue de St Paul' — fromage artisanal au lait cru de l'Abbaye unique, fabriqué par les religieux. Here you have a cheese which is entirely made by craftsmen on the scale of a cottage industry.

As for the definition of "Fromage Fermier". It is completely different to "Fromage Industriel", although the translated term could lead to confusion. A cheese may be manufactured on a small to medium scale, but nevertheless have the name "Fromage de Tradition", as long as the milk used in its manufacture is not pasteurized, and that the cheese is made by hand or with a ladle. An industrial cheese is invariably the label of pasteurized cheese.

All the cheeses which we

have represents about 5 per cent of all the French varieties.

I hope my letter clarifies your questions. It remains for me to thank you for your valued custom, and hope that you will not be deterred from visiting Le Gavroche again on account of our cheese. I am always working in the kitchen, so if you do visit the restaurant again, please do ask for me as I would be delighted to meet you.

I have also sent a copy of my reply to the *Michelin Guide*.

Yours sincerely,  
A. H. Roux,  
Managing Director,  
November 16, 1981.

Dear Mr Roux,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November. I am grateful for the trouble you have taken, in which I recognize the care you devote to your restaurant. It may seem a bit of a cliché to me to esteem the effort in both, but to like the

interest since M Olivier is in

Boulogne, where I know his shop. If it is indeed the cheese I saw it belies its artisanal origin through an appearance very close to that type of French nursery cheese known disparagingly as 'Boulbe' or 'Vache qui rit'.

There would appear to be an internal contradiction in your letter in that you say that the cheese is the product of a cottage industry, and is unpasteurized, and then, later, that "industrial" is invariably the label of pasteurized cheese. To reconcile these statements requires the conclusion that a cottage industry is not an industry.

My opinion on the size of your cheeseboard is influenced by thirty years' periodic observation of cheese boards all over France. In cheese producing areas I always prefer to see the cheeses of the area; it is obviously a policy decision to have no English cheese in a London restaurant; London is in any event not a cheese producing area, so there is nothing more to be said about that.

My dislike of large cheese boards is based partly on a dislike of what frequently appears to be numbers for numbers' sake, and partly on the practical difficulty of maintaining a large number of different cheeses in good condition. Androuet says certain cheeses may be kept in the refrigerator; although he lays down rigorous conditions for that storage, I would, from my own experience, doubt that this is, in general, safe advice.

You say that your selection represents about five per cent of all French varieties. I have not counted them exactly, but Androuet lists some 200; twenty-two cheeses are a formidable trolleyful.

My visit to Le Gavroche was my first; I found the food interesting, but I did not like it; I am sure however that my opinions are entirely untypical of your clientele and are therefore of little practical value. That being so, it is self-indulgence to set them down; I do so largely for the sake of my own record.

I began with a salad in which I remember I think of two birds, one of which was grouse, which was delicious; the other has not remained in my memory. The amount of dressing was excessive, which spoilt what would otherwise have been a perfectly pleasant dish.

I then made the mistake of choosing turbot, perhaps my favourite fish, in a port-wine sauce. The sauce was heavy, and succeeded in combining sweetness and bitterness in a way that is more usual in French restaurants. It completely masked the taste of the fish, and, being opaque in a dim light, also masked the fish itself.

In my view fish served in a

heavy sauce, usually an error, should not contain bones; my turbot did. It was present in very small quantity, and appeared to be overcooked. I drew that conclusion from its rather hard consistency; it had no taste.

There are, to my mind, very few sauces that can improve good fresh turbot, poached or grilled. My sauce was not among them. It also seemed to me to offend against the great principle enunciated by Escoffier: 'fautes simples'.

And then the cheese, which is where we came in. The tragedy of eating in London is, to my mind, that many restaurants wish to give good service, I am sure you do, but that very few people ask for it.

Yours is a thankless task; I wish you well in tackling it. Yours sincerely,  
Gerald Long,  
November 18, 1981.

From Michelin, Paris

Mr Gerald Long,

Dear Sir,  
We appreciate the interest you have shown in our Tourism Department and thank you for having drawn our attention to a restaurant mentioned in our Guide Great Britain and Ireland, under London.

Your comments have been carefully noted in the relevant file, so that we may consider them, together with other readers' when updating our information.

Of course, we shall acquaint our inspectors with your opinion and they will bear this in mind when carrying out further visits. It goes without saying that we will then make the necessary remarks to the management.

Hoping that you will be completely satisfied, henceforth, with your choice of hotels and restaurants, we remain,

Yours faithfully,  
Michelin et cie,  
November 23, 1981.

Dear Mr Long,  
Thank you for your letter of 18th November.

The fact that you have taken so much trouble to write about food leaves me with endless pleasure. So much so, that I would very much like you and your wife to be my guests for lunch or dinner, as I find from your letter that we have a great deal in common — a great love of food.

Would you please telephone me to make a date. Yours sincerely,  
A. H. Roux,  
November 23, 1981.

Dear Mr Roux,  
Thank you for your letter of 23 November, for your kind words, and for your generous invitation. I greatly appreciate it, but I hope you will understand if I do not accept it. In any event, I eat very rarely in restaurants, in this country even less than in France.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
Gerald Long,  
November 26, 1981.

Mr Roux said yesterday that he would call like to invite Mr and Mrs Long to dine.

im a bit - how you say -  
cheesed - off by  
these complaints.

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## THE FALL OF LAKER

There are lots of lessons to be learnt from the failure of Laker Airways — and some danger that the lessons learnt will be the wrong ones. There will be calls to strengthen the stranglehold which the state has on ownership and competition. That would be bad for customers, bad for economies and bad for the development of air transport.

Not all those calls come from the left, though the demands in Parliament yesterday are a depressing reminder of the mindless opposition to privatization. The airline industry itself is likely to take satisfaction in Sir Freddie's fall. The cause of cheap fares and open skies has been put back. But the challenge which Laker posed to the cartel in air travel and the example he gave of how competition can improve services must not be lost.

At the heart of the Laker revolution in travel across the North Atlantic was a basic proposition of business. If you can give people something which they want at lower cost, more will choose to buy. It is the secret of the great expansion of the western free market economies over the past 200 years. Yet it is too often forgotten.

Nowhere has the neglect of this elementary rule been more apparent than in the airline industry. Governments and airlines have cooperated to keep out competition. As a result, fares have been kept high and the number of people who could afford to fly has been kept down. To complete the circle, the airlines have claimed that air passengers are more interested in the frequency of service than the price they pay.

It is this circle which Sir Freddie Laker so triumphantly broke with his Skytrain service. Before that was launched he was little more than an enterprising operator of charter flights. Skytrain revolutionized long-distance air travel by cutting through much of the expensive inconvenience of traditional airlines. Its most important feature was certainly the low price; but its attractiveness for many passengers was

enhanced by the feeling that they could walk on to the aircraft without the complexities of making reservations and booking in advance.

Some of the changes pioneered by Skytrain will survive. The standby concept has been adopted by the conventional airlines who Sir Freddie set out to beat, at least on those routes where passengers had the choice of using Laker. The move towards greater competition within the United States was helped by the success of Laker and is unlikely ever to be wholly reversed. But much of the structure of air travel has been left untouched and is likely to try to reassert itself even on the North Atlantic route where competition is fiercest. The established airlines have beaten off the interloper and will be inclined to see his failure as an endorsement of all their past practices. They would be wrong.

They would be wrong to deny that price competition attracts new customers. Over the past year Laker's competitors have been using their considerable financial resources to cut their own prices to a level well below their costs. British Airways, along with most lines, has been making heavy losses on the North Atlantic route. BA had the taxpayers to cover them; Sir Freddie did not. But it took adoption of low fares by the other airlines to weaken his hold. They would be unwise to turn back that clock.

Just as the airlines would be wrong to conclude that cheap fares do not matter, governments would be wrong to conclude that new entrants without massive backing are so unreliable that they ought to be kept out altogether. There is much false concern from critics of Sir Freddie for the small number of people who find that they will not be able to travel to the United States because their flight in the next few days has been cancelled. They would do better to show interest in the millions of people who crossed the Atlantic in recent years and could not have done

so without the Laker revolution. The task for government is to make sure that in the future it will be easier for someone to try again to do what Sir Freddie did, not to put new barriers in the way.

There are two particular points which the Government has to consider. One is the role of regulation in the airline industry in Europe. Established airlines will try to keep the pattern of high fares, poor service and excessive costs by pointing to the Laker failure. Britain has been a force in favour of more competition in Europe, so far with little success. It must go on pressing the case, both in its dealings with other governments and with the European Commission. There is no reason why it should not be cheaper to fly to Athens than to New York other than rules of protection. Their artificiality is shown by the spread of the "bucket-shop" operations in Europe, in which airlines regularly sell seats at prices far below the agreed price while constantly denouncing others for the same activity. Any system which makes people ashamed of cutting prices is a bad system.

The second major policy question for the Government is on the privatization of British Airways. This should go ahead as soon as possible. State ownership breeds state regulation. If the taxpayer has to pick up the bill, government will always keep fares high to cut the aid it has to give. If Sir Freddie had not been faced by bottomless state purses he might still be flying today.

The final question which is bound to be raised in the light of his failure is about the very existence of competition as a good thing in itself. Nothing that has happened casts doubt on this. Sir Freddie was the risktaker par excellence. The basic fact about taking risks is that things can go wrong and sometimes will; otherwise there would be no risk. But it is in the interest of all that those risks should be taken; for without them, the horizons of a whole generation who have seen the world shrink would not have been broadened.

## MR TEBBIT GIVES OFFENCE

It is the manner as much as the substance that has given offence in Mr Norman Tebbit's replacement of Sir Richard O'Brien as head of the Manpower Services Commission with the younger and more doctrinally acceptable figure of Mr David Young. No one should doubt the Government's right to make the change. Contrary to the all-too prevalent impression that public office is the apolitical prerogative of the great and the good, governments of any hue can and should put into sensitive offices those whom they trust to carry out their policies. The Manpower Services Commission is not only a powerful quango, handling £845m a year of public money, it also stands at the centre of government policy towards the unemployed and towards training for school leavers. It is quite wrong to imply, as the initial response of both the unions and the parliamentary Opposition seemed to imply, that the Employment Secretary is being malicious or improper in exercising his prerogative

to decide not to renew the contract of one chairman and to replace him with a man of more sympathetic political leanings.

Nor is it right to suggest, as the unions and Opposition have suggested, that Mr Young is a man whose sole or even main qualification for the job is a close relationship with Ministers of a right wing hue. Ideologue he may be, but he is also a man who has a record of success as an administrator and businessman and some experience of training through his chairmanship of the World Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training.

What is open to criticism is the manner in which the appointment was made. The job of chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, like that of the chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, has hitherto been regarded as one which needed to be acceptable to both employers and employees. There is nothing sacrosanct about that, but this is an area where there is

a real need to gain the support of both sides of industry in developing new initiatives in training, in overhauling the apprenticeship system and finding workplaces for school leavers. And it is an area where the unions have attempted to take a generally constructive approach to change.

It is not just a question of appearances. It is a question of the attitudes betrayed by manners. There is in Mr Tebbit's approach, as that of the Prime Minister, a touch of deliberate antagonism towards anything which smacks of consensus. In some areas of economic policy that may be right and honest. But in other areas, and particularly that of training, there is little to be gained and much to be lost by abandoning a consensus approach. Sir Richard O'Brien has worked hard and effectively to develop that cooperation and confidence. There is no reason to believe that Mr Young will not be able to do the same. But Mr Tebbit has made it much more difficult for him.

## LICENCE LICENSED

Twenty members of Parliament spoke or intervened in the debate the other night about the new clause and schedule the Minister has added to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, a clause empowering local authorities to exercise control over sex shops and sex cinemas. It is notable that no one took up the cudgels on behalf of these wayside flowers of consumerism. No one rolled out the argument that here is a form of enterprise which has sprung up to meet a demand that is not unlawful — nor to everyone's taste perhaps, but offensive even to some, but squarely inside that enclosure where the law trespasses at peril of looking foolish.

Even those MPs who once upon a time would have carried the colours of libertarianism had other fish to fry or other credentials to establish. Listen to Mr Reg Race (expletives deleted): "Sex shops portray women as simply available for sex, as mindless bodies with no views of their own and no position in life other than as sex objects to be used for the

pleasure of men. I reject that completely". The purveyors of sex put to shame by the enemies of sexism, subject for a painting by Boucher. Of course we have not heard from the House of Lords yet. They, who have no constituents, have been the legislative vanguard for the earlier Mr Jenkins's permissive society. But on the evidence of the debate so far a change has overtaken the legislative climate. An alliance between old-fashioned moralists and new-fangled feminists is poised to roll back the frontiers of licentiousness.

All who spoke complimented the Minister for bringing in an apparatus of control, and almost all urged him to make it more restrictive. Particularly they wanted local authorities to be able to say no to sex shops altogether, which the clause as it stands apparently does not allow. Some also blenched at the parliamentary draftsmen's imaginative attempt to encompass the whole range of weird and gruesome implements made available by the sex stockist for the extraction of pleasure. "In this Schedule, 'sex article' means

(a) anything made for use in connexion with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging (i) sexual activity; or (ii) acts of force, restraint, violence or cruelty which are associated with sexual activity. "The words in italics proved too much for some Members, who saw Parliament being invited to license, and by licensing to approve, the sale of sadomasochistic appliances. What next?

In vain did Mr Timothy Raison, piloting the new clause, plead that the Bill before them was one to augment the powers of local authorities, not to reform the law of obscenity; that the courts could not be depended upon to find such articles obscene and their offer for sale an offence; and that therefore if Parliament scrupled to include the objectionable words it would be conferring powers of control over retail outlets of the sex industry while exempting from control all the most obnoxious specimens. The draftsmen, like Mr Race, are to be asked to kindly express themselves less blatantly.

## Laker enterprise's unequal load

From Mr Martin Drew

Sir, With the calling in of a managing receiver at Laker Airways we witness yet again the unequal treatment between state and private industry. An inefficient state airline, losing millions through overmanning, lumbering on, and an efficient but over-ambitious private airline goes under.

Some of us thought we had elected a Conservative Government to put an end to this unacceptable face of socialism.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN DREW,  
24 Hugh Street, SW1,  
February 5.

## Dry observation

From Mr Gordon Pepper

Sir, Will all the wets, both in the House of Commons and outside, which includes the press, please read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what is happening in both Eire and Australia? Short-term palliatives, such as a huge Budget deficit in Eire and a wages commission in Australia, have very nasty habit of having distinctly perverse effects in the longer term.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON PEPPER,  
Stoddard,  
Sissinghurst,  
Cotswold,  
February 1.

## A diary in question

From Mrs Amanda Cornford

Sir, I tenderly agree with Jacqueline Simpson (January 25) that the authenticity of *The Diary of a Farmer's Wife* by Anne Hughes is important, but not that it is just a "pretty fiction". Jeanne Preston, who compiled the diary, used authentic sources, as the television producer Michael Croucher, who followed on with the research that I initiated, found out. Mrs Preston drew on her own memories of life on a Herefordshire farm in the 1880s and 1890s, her mother's and grandmother's recipe collection and the stories told to her as a child by one Mary Anne Thomas, Anne Hughes's daughter, then in her eighties, who also read to her out of Anne Hughes's diary. This diary, "a thin book with spidery writing", certainly existed and was in Mrs Preston's possession in the early 1940s, but has since vanished.

Anne Hughes's diary as published today, however, is an amalgam put together in the 1930s by Mrs Preston reaching back to her childhood memories of 50 years ago (she was born in 1884) and making use of Anne Hughes's diary and the notes she made as a girl of Mary Anne Thomas's stories, with family recipes included. So as folk history it is certainly worth taking seriously.

Perhaps one day the real diary may be found, and the redstone may be removed from it, which Jeanne Preston sold at a Red Cross sale to raise money for the war effort in the 1940s (it fetched £170). Meanwhile, may readers continue to enjoy this delightful book in the knowledge that it contains much truth mixed with a little fancy.

Yours faithfully,

AMANDA CORNFORD,  
The House,  
Wicken Bonhunt,  
Seffron Walden,  
Essex,  
February 2.

## Lloyd's Bill

From Sir Peter Vaneck, MEP for

Cleveland (Conservative)  
Sir, From days as Lord Mayor I take a continuing interest in the invisible earnings of the City of London, based on its international status, expertise, integrity, and the efficacy of its self-regulation. The current controversy over the Corporation of Lloyd's Bill before the House of Commons, particularly now that I am a member, is a matter of concern. I well recall, when I was on the Stock Exchange Council, how one felt one had to look over one's shoulder in disciplining a firm or members in case the parties concerned threatened that this would prejudice some other legal action in which they were involved.

While one was assured that the courts would hold that we acted with privilege, or at least qualified privilege, I venture to think that the Stock Exchange Council putting forward a Bill these days it would grasp with relief the opportunity to ensure statutorily that its council was granted freedom from suit in the conduct of its affairs with its members.

Yours truly,

PETER VANECK,  
City Gate House,  
Finsbury Square, EC2,  
February 4.

## 'In vitro' risks

From Ms S. Porter-Williams

Sir, In the Times of January 28, you report that Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, has called for a moratorium on test-tube baby work until its ethics have been more widely discussed. His reasons are that he thinks that *in vitro* fertilization may increase the risk of congenital abnormalities, and that simply being infertile does not justify the risk, since "no one dies of infertility". I disagree with Dr Thomas. Whether there is an unusual risk of congenital abnormalities can only be known when there is enough experience of the technique to apply statistical tests to the results. Even then I feel that the choice of whether to take the risk should rest with the prospective parents, just as it does when there is a risk of a congenital abnormality through a normal

## Sources of support for universities

From Professor C. A. Pasternak

Sir, Over the past four months you have published many letters, each of which has in some way criticized the Government for cutting its grant to universities. What is surprising is how many academics admit in private that once the difficult and painful task of reducing the present level of activity has been achieved their universities will emerge as more effective and productive units. No one can deny that there is dead wood and wastage in our centres of higher learning, just as there is in our factories and railways.

Should we actually thank the Government for their draconian measures? To a certain degree, perhaps, and for another reason also. The present cut-back will force those of an ambitious, creative and industrious bent to turn to alternative sources of funding, namely the private sector. The benefits of that lie in the removal of some of the control that Government, through the University Grants Committee, exercises over universities.

Imagine I am not alone in believing that the aim of a university education should be to train a student to think logically. It does not matter too much whether this is achieved through a study of physics, biology, mathematics, philosophy, ancient history or Sanskrit. Vocational training in bridge-building, education, pharmacy or theology is best done instead of, or subsequent to, an undergraduate university course.

Given that undergraduate education is more of a luxury than a necessity, in the sense that music, literature or painting is, it is inappropriate for Government or the UGC to coerce universities into concentrating on one or another discipline. Market forces nowadays make students choose those subjects for which they see an appropriate career at the end. Of course, the argument between public and private patronage of higher education and research, as of the arts, can be continued at length (and will be done say, in the very next column). But there must be many who share the view that public control of the activities just mentioned has, in several countries during this century, not been an outstanding success.

Where then, in these depressed times, are private funds for education and research to be found? Let me give three examples. The first is a very modest one, cited merely because of personal involvement. Three years ago at St George's, the Cell Surface Research Fund was set up. The aim was to supplement income received from the national grant-giving agencies for medical research by appealing to industry and the private trusts: one of our reasons was dissatisfaction with the way in which long-term research was being funded (letters to *The Times*, September 13 and 15, 1978). Despite the continually worsening financial situation, the CSRF has managed

## Nature of the SDP

From Mr Ewan Luard

Sir, Your juxtaposition of letters about the SDP today (February 2) aptly demonstrates the danger of reaching premature conclusions concerning the type of party it is. I share the belief of Martin Camm and Robert Lacey that the SDP, if it is to be an effective force in British politics, must be a party that is deeply committed to creating a much more equal society than we have in Britain today.

Unlike them I still hope and believe it will be such a party. Certainly a fact that it engages in "silly PR" need not prevent it being so. Nor even need a decision (if such there is) to permit the right to private health and education, so long as there is a commitment to devote sufficient resources to public health and education, and to integrate the two systems more closely together.

But the main point is that all these matters are still to be decided. It makes little sense to abandon a party on policy grounds at a time when policy is still being formed.

Meanwhile there is some evidence that the party has not become irredeemably right-wing in the other letter you publish today. If SDP members have been consistently voting against the present Government in Parliament, it suggests that it may still be a radical force within our political system: that it is indeed, given its electoral support and the distractions preoccupying the Labour Party, now the basic opposition party in Britain.

Yours faithfully,

EVAN LUARD,  
35 Observatory St, Oxford,  
February 2.

## 'In vitro' risks

From Ms S. Porter-Williams

Sir, In the Times of January 28, you report that Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, has called for a moratorium on test-tube baby work until its ethics have been more widely discussed. His reasons are that he thinks that *in vitro* fertilization may increase the risk of congenital abnormalities, and that simply being infertile does not justify the risk, since "no one dies of infertility". I disagree with Dr Thomas. Whether there is an unusual risk of congenital abnormalities can only be known when there is enough experience of the technique to apply statistical tests to the results. Even then I feel that the choice of whether to take the risk should rest with the prospective parents, just as it does when there is a risk of a congenital abnormality through a normal

## Fears for West End theatres

From Mr Paul Eddington

Sir, A property battle appears to threaten a large number of West End theatres following the retirement of Lord Grade, and while over the short-term outcome in this particular case the threat must increase in direct ratio to every rise in the value of prime sites.

The view of most of us working in the entertainment industry is that its health largely depends on that of a live, flourishing, non-subsidized "commercial" theatre, and my own view is that the basis of such a theatre can only be made secure by the removal of the buildings themselves from the market place.

Presumably such a step would require legislation, but I feel means must be found if we are not to see the enterprise of some of the world's most courageous impresarios ossify into yet another row of office blocks.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL EDDINGTON,  
as from 22 Grafton Street, SW1,  
February 3.

## Civil Service pay

From Dr Roderick Beaton

Sir, Your tetchy leader this morning (February 3) on the subject of Civil Service and public sector pay unthinkingly repeats a dangerous nonsense which the present Government seems to have inherited, perhaps also unthinkingly, from Labour. This is that all the "workers" in an "industry" must be equally rewarded or punished in terms of pay, regardless of the skills they possess and the services they are actually paid to perform.

Thus your leader-writer seems to despise equally as "civil servants" the often under-qualified and inexperienced individuals that government departments, like the other large concerns, seem to employ to feed off the inquiring public, and the highly-qualified men and women who run these government departments and bear the responsibility for translating government policy (of whatever government) into practical action.

Presumably the Treasury, in drawing up the document which has so incensed *The Times*, has recognized that if officials of the calibre and integrity required to carry out its unloved tasks are to be recruited and maintained, they will have to be paid at an appropriate level. It is time that *The Times*, and indeed this Government, realized that the financial gains of industry and commerce are in themselves of no value whatever to the community as a whole, without the collection and distribution of taxes and the maintenance of the many services which in turn enable industries to operate profitably. We have not yet heard of the "privatization" of tax collection, or of the preparation of the Budget being farmed out to (grouped or otherwise) private consultants.

Or does *The Times* really believe that Sir Geoffrey does it all himself?

Yours etc,

RODERICK BEATON,  
University of London,  
King's College,  
Strand, WC2.

## Women in orders

From the Chaplain of St John's College, Oxford

Sir, Caroline Moorehead (*The Times*, January 28) draws attention to the anomalous position in England of the Rev Elizabeth Canham and other validly ordained priests of the Anglican communion who happen to be women.

But the Eucharist is not the sacrament where the General Synod's ban on Elizabeth Canham's exercise of her ministry in England arises most acutely. Like many priests, I always make a practice of stopping at serious road accidents. What if in such or similar circumstances Elizabeth Canham was asked for absolution by someone critically ill? Is she to deny the penitent the gift of grace simply because she is on the wrong side of the Atlantic?

Yours faithfully,

A. C. J. PHILLIPS,  
St John's College,  
Oxford,  
February 1.

## Lessons for Lutyns

From Dr Priscilla Metcalf

Sir, It should not be a lesson from Lutyns that "the oddity of the chequer-board housing in Westminster is rather admired" (letter, February 2). Some of us who live in better-designed housing just around the corner from that close set of barracks with their superimposed inhuman facade, do not admire it and even think it shows a contempt for the masses, whom Lutyns knew nothing about. Only historians who live in their own houses admire it.

Charles McKean was right. Imagine looking at chequer-board every time you look out of the window or walk down the street! Yours indignantly,  
PRISCILLA METCALF,  
37 Gainsborough House,  
Erasmus Street, SW1.

## Proper names

Professor M. A. Screech

Sir, I have just received a letter from a cultural attaché addressed to a colleague named "Dr Honoris Causa" who is, allegedly, an "honorary research fellow" in this department. Does anyone know who she is?

Yours truly,  
M. A. SCREECH,  
Department of French  
Language and Literature,  
University College of London,  
Gower Street, WCI.



## SOCIAL NEWS

Today is the thirtieth anniversary of the accession of the Queen. The President of the United States is 71 today.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Home Office to mark the bicentenary on March 25.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new development in the Chapter House at Windsor on March 31.

## Forthcoming marriages

Flight Lieutenant M. K. C. Allen, RAF, and Flight Lieutenant S. B. Denney, FMAFAS.

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Professor and Mrs K. W. Allen, of Bourne's Hill, Oxford, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. N. Denney, of Whitelower Hall, Walton, North Yorkshire.

Mr E. Buckhalter and Miss A. J. Shaw.

The engagement is announced between Edwin, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Buckhalter, of Dulwich, London, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. V. Shaw, of Shenstone, Staffordshire.

Mr A. L. H. Smith and Miss C. S. Abbott.

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Dr A. L. and Mrs G. P. Smith, of Bromborough, Merseyside, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Abbott, of Swange, Dorset.

Mr P. R. Wetton and Miss T. J. Winch.

The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs F. W. Wetton, of Cheshire, and Jenny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. P. Winch, of Wilmshurst, Cheshire.

Dr W. F. J. Harkness and Princess Philippa Lubomirska.

The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Harkness, of Stoke Newington, Devon, and Philippa, second daughter of Prince and Princess Marek Lubomirski, of Ecuries, Montreux-sur-Mer, France.

## Service luncheon

Royal Corps of Transport Major-General W. M. Allen, Director General of Transport and Movements, held a luncheon yesterday at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot, in honour of present and past TA Colonels of the Royal Corps of Transport. The principal guests were Major-General W. M. Allen, Director General of Transport and Movements, and Major-General W. M. Allen, Director General of Transport and Movements.

## Dinners

Master Tailors' Benevolent Association. The Master Tailors' Benevolent Association held their festive dinner at the Europa Hotel on February 4, 1982. The principal guests were Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Mr Robert Hardy. Others present were Mr Robert J. Bright, appeal chairman, and Mr F. G. Welchman, president.

## Service dinner

Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were guests of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club at dinner at Armoury House last night. Major J. P. Sworfer, president, was in the chair. Colonel the Rev K. C. Oliver, the Lord Mayor, Mr R. Vergette, and Colonel the Earl of Avon also spoke.

## University news

Liverpool. Appointments. Senior lecturers: P. Harker, MB, BS (London) (child health); C. A. Harker, MB, BS (London) (medical microbiology); G. S. Dawkins, MB, BS, MRCP, DPM (Liverpool) (orthopaedic and general surgery); J. G. Lister, MB, BS, FRCS (Edinburgh) (surgery).

## Stirling

Professor Duncan Timmins, of the department of sociology, and Professor James Trainor, of the department of German, have been appointed deputy principals until July 31, 1984, and December 31, 1984 respectively.

## Riccardi Muti

My activity as Music Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra has enabled me to know and appreciate the high professional standard and enthusiastic dedication with which the British musicians approach their work, a work which provides cultural enrichment and spiritual wellbeing for others that no price can pay. We can thank them by making certain that those whose professional artistic life has ended through illness or accident continue to live in dignity and serenity. Our help can ensure that their sacrifices do not receive misery and hardship as their only prize.

Philip Crummen, Chairman of the MUSICIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND, 16 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG.

## The politics of covenants and alliances

It has been intriguing to notice over the past months how political leaders have been using what would normally be regarded as ecclesiastical language to describe their varying policies and types of organization. Terms like sect, church, dogma, dissent, establishment have been constantly used in the attempt to define the position of one party as opposed to another or to express the ideal which a particular organization seeks to espouse. In the light of this phenomenon it has been interesting to consider how far the four parties in contemporary British politics correspond to the major divisions in the Western Church since the period of the Reformation.

First there has been the traditional Catholic, standing firmly for authority and for the maintenance of an ordered system of faith and morals, this system being defined by written codes. In practice there has tended to be some flexibility in interpreting laws and some leniency in their administration. But in theory all the members of the Church owe primary obedience to the rules set forth by those representing divine authority for the due ordering of life in society.

In complete contrast there have been sectarian groups, each claiming to be Christian but each determining its own fundamental tenets and pattern of social behaviour by the corporate decisions of its members. Normally such a sect has appealed to the Bible in framing its rules and doctrines but in so doing it has paid little attention to the history of interpretation or to the views of others claiming Christian allegiance.

The sect has as its central concern the achievement of a particular goal for the benefit of its members and all efforts are concentrated in this direction. The Anabaptists were a famous example in the sixteenth century; there have been innumerable examples since.

Third there has been what one might call the liberal Catholic, striving for the wholeness of the social order but recognizing the wide variety of offices and functions which must exist within any healthy organism. The central concern of the Church, as of all organisms is growth: in knowledge and in quality of daily living.

Further, the chief means for the attainment of this growth is through embracing the available means of grace and through participating in the exercise of Christian charity. No blueprint can be regarded as finally determinative. Within a worshipping fellowship, striving towards the attainment of ultimate values, the body corporate lives and grows.

Fourth, there has been what I will call the liberal Protestant, seeking to bring into being a better social order by vigorously opposing blatant evils and working for the common good. The Scriptures provide invaluable guidelines on matters of faith and conduct but no interpretations can be regarded as of final authority. There must ever be openness to the challenge of a new situation.

It is through imaginative action that evil can be overcome and new good created. The first and second of these options have appealed to multitudes over the past four centuries. They display a single-mindedness and a definiteness which seem to promise immediate results. But they allow for living growth and for strategies adaptable to the continuing struggle between good over evil, two objects which were central in Jesus' own mission and which the New Testament holds forth as basic for the Christian Church? Crises in the world may pull to rigidities in one direction or the other: can a partnership in the middle be sustained?

At the moment a key-word in ecclesiastical circles is covenant. In political circles it is alliance. Historical records show that covenants, however solemnly made, can be broken. The same is true of political alliances. The temptation to seek greater power by concentrating on a single interest is always present.

Yet, in spite of all failures, is there anything finer in human experience than commitment to partnerships in which neither unit is swallowed up by the other but in which, through a continuing process of give and take, creative growth is effected and some victory for righteousness is won?

F. W. Dillistone

Marguerite Porter, of the Royal Ballet, playing the leading role in "Swan Lake", which opens tonight at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Italian dealers send picture prices soaring

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Italian dealers competing at Christie's yesterday sent prices for paintings by minor Italian nineteenth-century artists to new heights. A Venetian genre scene of 1886, "Opening the present", by the painter, Giuseppe de Mattei, made £4,850. Christie's had estimated £500-£800.

On a second painting even the artist's name had defied Christie's. It was catalogued as "1. Giardelli", since that signature appears on it, the asterisk indicates that Christie's had been unable to trace his forename. A small work on board, it depicts "Fishing boats offshore in a calm" and was sold for £4,104 (estimate £200-£400). A "Mountainous coastal landscape", by Silvio Poma, made £3,780 (estimate £1,000-£1,500).

A picture sale held by Phillips in Chester yesterday scored a new auction record price for a watercolour by Albert Goodwin. Entitled "Indian Harbour", it is dated 1911 and was sold for £12,100 (estimate £2,000-£3,000) to a London dealer. Although Goodwin travelled widely, West Indian views are rare: only two others are recorded, according to the auctioneers.

In London Phillips set another auction record, this time for a silver wine label. The label is modelled as the arms of Perth, surmounting an oval plaque engraved "port". It dates from about 1800 and bears the mark of Robert Kerr, of Perth. The price was £1,430 (estimate £500-£600). The star turn in Sotheby's modern print sale was Renoir's colour lithograph, "Chapeau Espagnol", which sold for £12,650 (estimate £9,000-£11,000). Sotheby's auction of cheaper carpets was 10 per cent unsold, a low figure by recent standards.

promise immediate results. But they allow for living growth and for strategies adaptable to the continuing struggle between good over evil, two objects which were central in Jesus' own mission and which the New Testament holds forth as basic for the Christian Church? Crises in the world may pull to rigidities in one direction or the other: can a partnership in the middle be sustained?

At the moment a key-word in ecclesiastical circles is covenant. In political circles it is alliance. Historical records show that covenants, however solemnly made, can be broken. The same is true of political alliances. The temptation to seek greater power by concentrating on a single interest is always present.

Yet, in spite of all failures, is there anything finer in human experience than commitment to partnerships in which neither unit is swallowed up by the other but in which, through a continuing process of give and take, creative growth is effected and some victory for righteousness is won?

F. W. Dillistone

Marguerite Porter, of the Royal Ballet, playing the leading role in "Swan Lake", which opens tonight at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Italian dealers send picture prices soaring

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Italian dealers competing at Christie's yesterday sent prices for paintings by minor Italian nineteenth-century artists to new heights. A Venetian genre scene of 1886, "Opening the present", by the painter, Giuseppe de Mattei, made £4,850. Christie's had estimated £500-£800.

On a second painting even the artist's name had defied Christie's. It was catalogued as "1. Giardelli", since that signature appears on it, the asterisk indicates that Christie's had been unable to trace his forename. A small work on board, it depicts "Fishing boats offshore in a calm" and was sold for £4,104 (estimate £200-£400). A "Mountainous coastal landscape", by Silvio Poma, made £3,780 (estimate £1,000-£1,500).

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Diploma for 'Times' writer

A competition run by the Council of Europe to promote the different aspects of European cooperation such as human rights and the environment has been won by Mrs Ursula Reist-Haller for her articles in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and in magazines.

The second prize went to Mr Acw Van Der Vet, a Dutch journalist, and the third prize was won jointly by Mrs Joanne Kartheiser, of *Tagesschau*, and Mr Peter Nyhus, of the *Oostlands Posten*, Norway.

Diplomas awarded to Mrs Gabrielle Lefevre, of *La Cite*, Belgium, Mr Alfred Weber, of a *Westdeutscher Rundfunk* broadcast in Germany, Mr John Young, of *The Times*, and Mr Peter Arnold, of the *Besler Zeitung*, Switzerland.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Douglas French to be a special adviser to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He succeeds Mr Peter Cropper.

Dr Michael Hirst, deputy director of Hatfield Polytechnic, to be director from next May.

Correction

Headings on one of the tables which accompanied the review of last year's rainfall, published on Thursday, were misprinted. The correct table is reproduced below.

	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
January	58	156	114
February	67	114	101
March	103	152	128
April	151	185	128
May	215	187	128
June	215	187	128
July	48	103	112
August	48	103	112
September	141	215	175
October	141	215	175
November	141	215	175
December	141	215	175

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Monthly rainfall is shown in the following table in millimetres and as a percentage of average for the month.

England and Wales

Scotland

Northern Ireland

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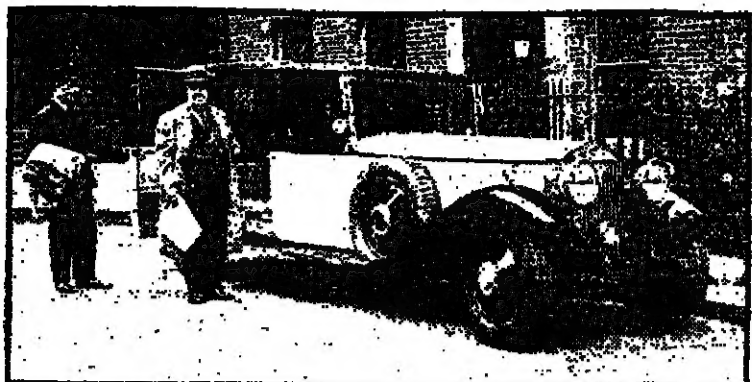
August

September

October



# Saturday Review



## The exploits of Edgar Wallace

Edgar Wallace won fame as a thriller-writer with a superbly simple formula:

"crime and blood and three murders to the chapter." He also wrote African adventures and tales of the Turf — more than 150 novels in all — as well as plays and films. In a *Punch* cartoon, in his heyday, a traveller at a station bookstall asked "Have you got the midday Wallace?" He died 50 years ago. Michael Innes, master of the classic detective story, recalls and reassesses him.



A bottle of whisky had been placed on a small table beside the speaker by hosts unaware that what he might have preferred was constant fill-ups of strong sweet tea. He did justice to the whisky nevertheless, and I see the bottle as empty by the time he had finished talking. This may be a trick of memory: it was more than fifty years ago, after all. What I am certain of is an impression of extreme exhaustion held at bay by an iron will. The heavy eyelids drooped more and more alarmingly over the long cigarette holder, and he was as pallid as any of the innumerable corpses that clutter up his plays and novels.

At the same time he seemed a man much at his ease, dissimulating without difficulty the insignificance of addressing twenty or thirty undergraduates calling themselves for the occasion the Oxford Edgar Wallace Society. We had perhaps expected something "loud" about him. Nothing of the kind was on view.

What did he talk about, or rather narrate? It was Sanders-Bosambo stuff, with Wallace himself improbably, indeed preposterously, close to the centre of every action. We were sophisticated after a juvenile fashion; knew we were listening to a pack of lies: were amused. But then our perception of the affair changed. These were new lies. Wallace wasn't putting on a stock performance — fluently creating as he spoke — but was, with scarcely a pause — just as if he were at his dictaphone at home, running up a new novel or play over the weekend.

We finished by listening awed in the presence of this inventive power. Joseph Conrad, could he be conceived of as speaking to us about *Heart of Darkness*, Joyce Cary describing to a succeeding generation of students the background of *Aissa Saved*, could scarcely have produced a more persuasive assertion of familiarity with the mysteries of Congo of Niger.

Edgar Wallace was the illegitimate child of a struggling small-time actress who concealed his birth and arranged for his bringing up by foster-parents in the large family of a Billingsgate fish-porter. He was to regard himself as having been completely rejected by his mother, and he said to have turned her away from his door with a wholly uncharacteristic harshness when she presented herself in a distressed condition in her later years.

In his boyhood she did however visit him from time to time, and her occasional gifts of theatre tickets, together with her general

theatrical ambience, probably constituted as profound a formative influence as he was to undergo. Most of what he did had as its sole aim the acquiring of money to spend. But the theatre was an exception. At the level of melodrama at which he understood it, the stage was with him an absorbing passion pursued for its own sake.

His early years were unremarkable. Not caring for employment as a newsboy or bottle-washer, he ran away to sea, and quickly ran back again. He enlisted and was sent to South Africa, astutely managed to transfer himself to the easy service of the Medical Staff Corps, and began to write. He achieved some local fame as the Kipling Tommy who could turn out the more facile sort of Kipling verse, and Kipling himself said friendly things about him.

Soon he had bought his discharge from the army with a borrowed eighteen pounds, been appointed a Reuter's correspondent of a subordinate sort, and thus launched on a journalist's career — the diverse and often hectic activities of which he was to pursue side by side with intensive authorship to the end of his days.

All this was much to the credit of an entirely self-educated young man — or rather a young man uninterested in any sort of self-education not of evident immediate utility in a more than moderately ambitious conception of getting on. There was nothing meteoric about his career. Endowed with immense self-confidence and resilience, easily excited to a valuable pitch of nervous tension yet with a power of swiftly regained equanimity and poise, he is nevertheless to be seen constantly making miscalculations, losing jobs, involved in bizarre fiascos, essentially through not knowing quite enough.

Thus he could be enthusiastic over the Turf and spin yarns about it with all the convincing know-how of a Nat Gould or a Dick Francis, but when he bought horses (giving them proud names out of the Sanders stories) they almost invariably proved not to be the sort of animals that win races. When he wrote a new play he was without any disciplined critical faculty to bring to bear on it, and could be totally at sea as to whether it was good or bad. Even the common mechanisms of the market place were often obscure to him — a fact well illustrated by the odd history of *The Four Just Men*.

The book was planned as his first big coup with a crime thriller, and he based himself on the premise that anything that is sufficiently widely advertised is

bound to sell widely. He had also thought up what would later have been called a gimmick. The manner in which the Just Men had killed to the withered, and £500 was to be distributed in prizes to readers sending in approved solutions.

On this project he worked with frenzied enthusiasm. £1,000 (scarcely a penny towards which he possessed) was his first estimate of the cost of promoting the book. But as his zeal mounted, and London became plastered with huge posters announcing what was in store for it, the bill mounted too. "I shall be glad," he wrote to his wife in South Africa, "to have the book finished and off my conscience, for I am most anxious to get on with the advertising part of it. This latter is really the most important part."

Thus plugged, the book did, not unreasonably, well. But as its retail price was only 3s 6d it was obvious that sales would have to be phenomenal indeed if the enterprise were not to end in disaster. Here was what Wallace had failed to consider — and he had failed to reflect on the likelihood that passably "correct" solutions to his mystery would come in by the hundred, as indeed they did. As he had no money at all except what the book was earning from day to day, there were delays and silences which prompted widespread suspicions of fraud.

Wallace was working on the



Leslie Banks (left) and Paul Robeson in Sanders of the River.



Far left: the former Billingsgate street urchin with the traditional symbol of success, in Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, 1931, and on the set of *Red Aces* at Beaconsfield. Left: Bela Lugosi in *Dark Eyes* of London, 1939.

*Daily Mail* at the time, and the novel had been lavishly advertised in the paper. Its proprietor, Alfred Harmsworth, took the view that his reputation required him to put up the money to rescue his employee. But for some time he thought poorly of Wallace, and to be thought poorly of by Harmsworth was not the happiest of positions in Fleet Street in 1905.

Nevertheless *The Four Just Men* marked a turning-point in Wallace's career, since it gave him his master formula. He had been trying his hand at romantic fiction, entirely without success. But now, in sending his wife for some reason a book called *A World Without a Child*, he wrote: "It is of course full of religious tosh, that seems to take with the blithering multitude, in fact religion and immorality are the only things that sell books nowadays. I am going to start a middle course and give them

crime and blood and three murders to the chapter: such is the insanity of the age that I do not doubt for one moment the success of my venture."

In the long run the event justified his confidence. "Crime and blood and three murders to the chapter" was as unerring a recipe as Raymond Chandler's "Have a man come in the door with a gun." One simply need never be stuck.

He had begun as a journalist sharply observant on the fringe of things. In Africa he had been not only a private soldier and a war correspondent but also, at a later date, an investigator on behalf of Harmsworth of rumoured atrocities in the Belgian Congo. Of native life in its more picturesque aspects, and the problems it presented to white administrators he had picked up much, but largely at second-hand and what may be called a yarn level; like Kipling he knew that "sometimes in a smoking-room, one learns why things were done." The long series of Sanders and related stories — the next important land-mark after *The Four Just Men* — is based on this, on some rapid reading in aid of the project, and (one is inclined to suppose) on the widely popular African-romances of Rider Haggard.

The numerous kingdoms over which Mr Commissioner Sanders holds sway are peopled by savages and cannibals all of whom are wily, nearly all cruel and courageous, a few mild and cowardly. They are credited, at convenience, with telepathic and mesmeric powers, so that Sanders, chugging round among them in his little river steamer and commonly only with a small detail of native troops, is hard put to it to come out regularly on top. He is very much a man of swift action, liberal with hangings and "scientifically" inflicted floggings, and the basis of his power is that succinctly expressed by Hilaire Belloc:

We have got The Gatling gun and they have not.

He can afford to be foolhardy. He will walk nonchalantly into a trap; be trussed and later put to the torture of having to dance barefoot on hot stones. Just in time, the super-wily but faithful Bosambo and his tribe will turn up, a gun will be unmasked and begin rapid fire, the torturers will scatter and all be well.

Here and there in the stories a sentimental touch is admitted — as when a boy-king, whom Sanders has introduced to his duties with the help of a cane lavishly laid on, saves the life of his instructor at the cost of his own. But in general the aim is to be tough all through — and in simple, rapid and vigorous prose. There is much ramshackle improvisation but also a good deal of clever plotting in the interest of some sharp surprise.

Throughout his work, alike in plays, novels and short stories, the plotting is nothing if not boldly imaginative. Thus in a story called "The Circumstantial Evidence" a chemistry student who just happens to have a bottle of cyanide of potassium in her pocket finds herself studying the wine-glass of a rich uncle whose heir she has that day become, and who just happens to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide of potassium a few minutes later. We must not quarrel with such fabrications if we are to enjoy Wallace in a large way.

But his command of surprise is of a different order. One of the Sanders stories, "The Lonely One", turns itself brilliantly inside-out in its final eight words. In what is perhaps the best of the crime novels, *The Crimson Circle*, we follow, among other threads, the investigations of a certain Derrick Yale, a "psychometric detective", who can tell by handling a cartridge case that the man who fired it was suffering from toothache. The conclusion of this story, entirely convincing within the framework of its illusion, brings this absurdity to heel in a denouement scarcely rivalled by a supreme masterpiece in the kind, Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Had Wallace been more content in his productions, this ability would have made a more lasting mark than it did. In his financial dealings he was unendingly rash and generous. Because he had a big Rolls-Royce his wife must have at least a smaller one. Because he owned racehorses he must have a box at Ascot as well.

The final phase of his life came with a visit to California. He had made a trip to America in very grand style three years before, engaging the royal suite in the liner *Berengaria* for his family and entourage, working during

the passage at a desk which had been installed for a prime minister, granting in New York innumerable interviews judged of high publicity value, and soaking up all Chicago and its gangster-dom, the empire of Al Capone included, during a delicious visit of twenty-four hours. Back in England, and inspired by this revelation of a higher criminality, he had sat down and produced in four days a play called *On the Spot*.

Like Capone, its central figure, Tony Perrelli (played, through Wallace's astute choice, by Charles Laughton), operates in Chicago on a splendid scale. He has just in his pocket and judges eating out of his hands; he owns five brothels with forty girls in each; the women with whom he himself associates say things like, "You can't respect a guy who ain't got the money to treat you right." Eventually he is successfully framed by a Chief of Police for a murder which is in fact a suicide, and makes "strange, beastly, terrified noises" as his fate closes in on him. *On the Spot*, unlike Wallace's horses, was a winner right from the starting-gate.

But now things were different. There had been family troubles and at least brief estrangements, too many failures in rapid alternation with the successes, and even to his optimistic view an increasingly clear picture of the hazards of squandering large sums of money shortly — or not so shortly — before earning them. And he was going not to New York or Chicago but to Hollywood, to work under totally new conditions when already in his later fifties. He had hesitated, deferred the trip, betaken himself to Italy instead. "I am going to Rome on Thursday," he said in an interview, "to have a complete rest. I shall also visit Naples — just in case." And characteristically, lest the point of this subtle witicism should be missed, he had added, "Last week I had a touch of bronchitis, and I said to myself, 'I must see Naples before I die'."

Naples failed to come off, but in Hollywood he did eventually arrive. It was a brief up-and-down experience, with more downs than ups. They set him to contrive a "horror picture" and he got some way with what was finally called *King Kong*. But he was restless and ill at ease — and homesick, despite the unexpected companionship of two English jockeys, Michael Beary and the famous Steve Donoghue.

There was a plan for his wife to join him in Hollywood, and he wrote to her constantly, exhibiting an obsessive concern over her movements in England and Switzerland. At the same time he had become romantically attached to a young American actress; she failed to keep a dinner appointment with him; a crisis developed. Drinking more and more of his heavily sweetened tea, and forced to face the fact that his health was deteriorating, he had turned to wife to bring out with her a favourite patent medicine, and set his servant scouring the drug stores for others.

It was an inclement February, and his days were spent indoors in an overheated atmosphere. But after midnight on the occasion of the broken appointment he went found in his silk dressing-gown, pacing up and down the sidewalk in front of his house, still anxiously awaiting his guest's arrival. By the following morning he was very ill, and discovered to be an undiagnosed case of diabetes mellitus. Death followed swiftly.

His body was brought back to England on the *Berengaria* — not in the royal suite but with a certain regality all the same. The liner, we are told, crept into Southampton Water with her flag at half-mast; the flags of Southampton slipped gently down to salute him; bells tolled in Fleet Street.

There was nothing unifying about this. The Billingsgate street urchin had made himself the most widely read romancer of his time — and not through mere facility, although that was abundantly there, but rather by unremitting labour of an almost superhuman order. Yet there was surely something a shade ironic about this mass-entertainer's end. See Hollywood and die.

He left very large debts but they were coped with speedily from the royalties that still came in. The books and plays continued to live on for a time. Some are alive still. There were films, including, of course, the immensely popular *King Kong*.

It was in a film, and posthumously, that his art received perhaps its strangest tribute. When Korda produced *Sanders of the River* in 1935 the role of Bosambo was undertaken by Paul Robeson — who had been playing Othello at the Savoy Theatre in the year Laughton was playing Perrelli at Wyndham's.

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## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

## PHILHARMONIA

Music Director: Riccardo Muti

Principal Guest Conductor

## VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY

conducts

Tomorrow at 3.15

Strauss: Don Juan

MAYUMI FUJIKAWA (soloist)

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto

Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Savitsky: The Firebird, Suite (1919)

SPONSORED BY NCR

C. 24, 25, 26, 27

Thursday 11 February at 8

Stravinsky: Octet

## VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY (soloist)

Mozart: Piano Concerto in C, K.593

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 8

SPONSORED BY TRICENTROL

C. 24, 25, 26, 27

Thursday 18 February at 8

## BERNARD HAITINK

## CLIFFORD CURZON

Mozart: Symphony No. 32, K.318

Mozart: Piano Concerto in C, K.467

Strauss: Ein Heldenleben

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## BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

SIR CHARLES GROVES

IDA HAENDEL

DVOŘAK: Slavonic Rhapsody No. 3 in A flat major

HINDEMITH: Symphony in E flat (1940)

BRAHMS: Violin Concerto in D major

C. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

## ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JEAN-CLAUDE CASADESUS conductor

JESSY NORMAN soprano

RAYDN: Symphony No. 83 in G minor (La Poole)

SCHOENBERG: Song of the Wood Dove from Gesualdo

BIZET: Symphony No. 1 in C

With assistance from the London Music Foundation

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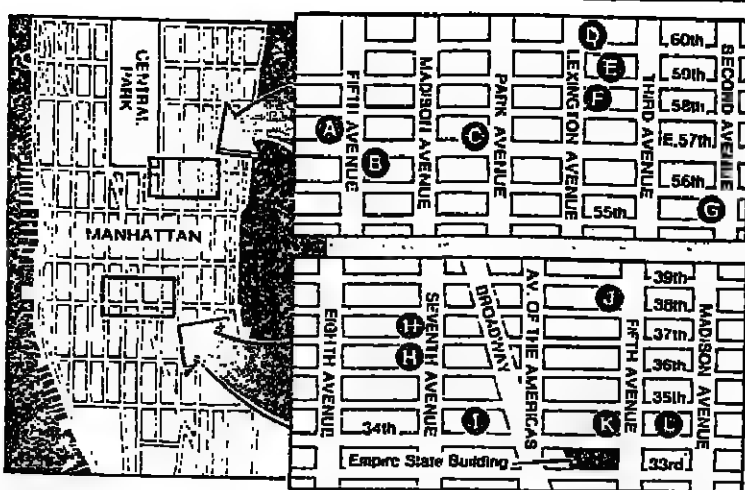
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**QUOTATION - SEND CASE DIMENSIONS**



# NY Shoparound with Beryl Downing



A, Bergdorf Goodman, B, Tiffany, C, Hammacher Schlemmer, D, Cohen's Fashion Optical, E, Bloomingdale's, F, Alexander's, G, Manhattan Art & Antique Centre, H, Garment Centre wholesale buildings, I, Macy's, J, Lord and Taylor, K, Orbach's, L, Altman's.

## The transatlantic shopper hopper

Where on earth would you expect to go shopping in an exotic hazy, buy cheese in an antique shop, which is where a lot of cheese should be, get vanishing tricks from the place where Houdini once shopped and buy a cut-price shirt on a Sunday, standing next to a king who had just slipped his bodyguard? New York, where else?

The maddest, baddest, saddest, gladiolus place in the world to go for a three-day shopping spree, which is what I was invited to do last weekend, and as you can now do the whole thing, including hotel, for £240 return, it is the modern equivalent of popping over to Paris with one unbeatable bonus: everything's cheaper if you know where to go.

New Yorkers who do know where to go, work on the principle that God created the Genies because somebody had to buy retail. The places to try your luck are the wholesale offices in the garment centre, five blocks around 462 Seventh Avenue, and the jobbers in the same area — traders who buy up cancelled and unsold stock and sell to the public at less than retail prices. The best guide to names is a thick tome called *Where to Find it, Buy it, Eat it in New York* by Gerry Frank, available in the city's main book stores at \$9.95.

If you are not quite so barefaced about your bargains, the other place to look for discounts is the Lower East Side which, with Chinatown and Little Italy, were the first residential areas on Manhattan Island and the first stepping stone to prosperity for many an immigrant family.

Orchard Street is Mecca, but never on Saturdays, as the traders are mostly orthodox Jews. Go on Sunday morning to get the full flavour — and don't have breakfast. There are so many delicatessens you could do a beigel crawl all morning.

I have to admit that, much as I love a bargain, I find the atmosphere in these narrow, crammed shops tends to defeat the whole object of shopping in New York. Now that excellent American merchandise is available in London, much of the pleasure over there is in the ingenuity of the presentation.

Moreover, you really do have to know when a bargain is not a bargain — when it has a famous label but last year's collar style, for instance. And really expensive items like furs were pretty much the same price as in London — or definitely not top quality. Alexander's, Lexington Avenue at 58th Street, would be a better hunting ground. Sundays noon-5pm, weekdays 10am-9pm.

Extra Cohen, though, at the end of Orchard Street at 305 Grand Street, is a paradise of percale and polyester — the discount store where in-the-know air hostesses buy their table and bed

linens. Famous name patterned sheets — Wamsutter, Marimekko, Bassetti — are all around £5 each single, £6 double, £7.50 queen and £9 king; pillow cases £4.50 a pair. Solid colours start at £3 single; Fieldcrest Royal Velvet towels are £2.75 hand, £4.75 bath. I am roughly translating from dollars by dividing by two, but even with a fluctuating exchange rate, prices are still about 40 per cent cheaper than for the equivalent here. Sunday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

Macy's at Herald Square, Broadway at 34th Street, has the best department store selection of linens, if you don't feel like hitting the discount trail — all beautifully displayed and still at excellent prices. Two things to remember about American bedding — you often can't get valances (which they call dust ruffles) to match sheets — they tend to team with comforters, which Americans use instead of their thicker duvets. The other point is that sheets are slightly larger on all sizes, so you may prefer not to buy fitted bottom sheets if you like them tight and wrinkle-free. Sundays, noon to 5pm, weekdays, 9.45am-6pm.

Orbach's 5 W 34th Street and E. Alexander, Fifth Avenue at 34th, are totally different cups of tea. Orbach's Quick Brew to Altman's Earl Grey. The former is middle-of-the-road fashion at middling prices, the latter is really rather correct, but it does have an entertaining autograph department with some unusual and interesting signatures to delight collectors. Sunday opening noon-5pm. Weekdays 10am-6pm.

Lord and Taylor, Fifth Avenue and 38th, is worth a quick visit while you are in this area. It has a very good handbag department, although not cheap, and a rather gracious atmosphere that British shoppers will probably find amusing. Some Americans call it stale, but as it was the first store on Fifth Avenue in 1903 that is to be expected. To a child anyone over 50 should be dismantled immediately and part-exchanged for a push-button model. Weekdays, 10am-6pm.

Bergdorf Goodman, further along Fifth Avenue at 74th Street, is very grand and very expensive as you would expect from a shop whose corner is taken up by Van Cleef & Arpels, diagonally across the road from the place where Odgen Nash said really rich people get their tiffs from Tiffany's. Top labels, top prices. Weekdays, 10am-6pm.

Hammacher Schlemmer, 145 E 57th Street, is the kitchen shop New Yorkers wouldn't dream of going anywhere else for their precision clam openers, their ultrasonic rodent chasers, or professional blood pressure analysers, presumably for those who didn't have the foresight to equip themselves with battery operated flour sifters — enough to give anyone the shakes. Not cheap, but fun. Weekdays, 10am-6pm.

The Loire Valley is a chapter of historic houses and castles but anyone staying near Angers should also try to see the Cointreau try to see the Cointreau establishment, on the fairly new industrial estate as elegant as the liqueur, with well-organized tours around. Uninhabited châteaux can seem melancholy but Brissac, where good wine is made and Montgeoffroy, with all the furniture specially designed

have attracted the attention of all great wine authorities. Torres wines are widely available in Britain and they do not release their reds until these are beginning to be tasted. Watson's Wines of Spain, 2 Norfolk Place, W2, have the 1976 Viña Magda for £3.76. This, made from the Pinot Noir and Carinena. The former classic grape, slightly predominating, has a gentle allure and lively Carinena the touch of sturdiness. This, rather than any suspiciously low-priced Burgundy, would be good with roast hare or rabbit, end-of-season game, casseroles or, even, that slightly problematic food, a ham or gammon joint.

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When God blessed America they hadn't invented jet-lag, but if you can't face crossing the Atlantic to do your shopping, don't give up — London is blossoming with new world design talent. Illustrated is a small selection to give you a taste of the flavour of the month.



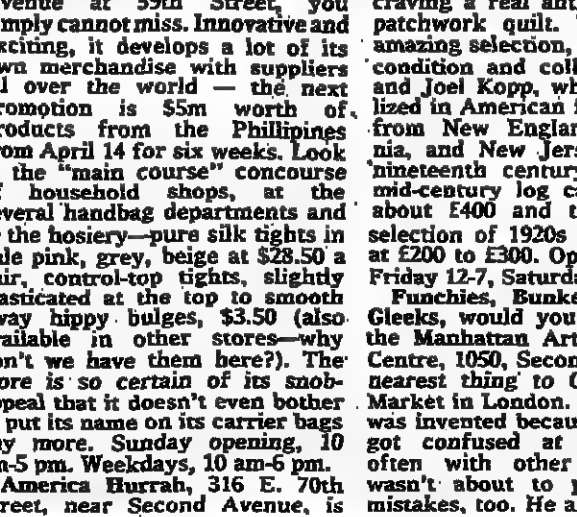
For your preppy puppy — crazy canine coat in emerald tairalea, £10. Also in blue, gold, red or brown from Harrods.



Sickly packaged American score cards and pencils in a presentation carrier for bridge fanatics, £8.95. Also a "Chef's Special" version for cooks. From Heald's, Tottenham Court Road, W1.



Opalescent glass scent bottles in swirling Tiffany colours, 3 1/2 in high by John Givley, New York. £55 each from Harrods.



At Peacock (comes from Surrey, worth a taxi trip if you are craving a real antique American patchwork quilt. They have an amazing selection, all in excellent condition and collected by Kate and Joel Kopp, who have specialized in American folk art mainly from New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Many are nineteenth century — a superb mid-century log cabin quilt was about £400 and there is a big selection of 1920s and 30s quilts at £200 to £300. Open Tuesday to Friday 12-7, Saturday 12-6.

Funchies, Bunkers, Cakes and Greeks, would you believe, is at the Manhattan Art and Antique Centre, 1050, Second Avenue, the nearest thing to Grays Antique Market in London. The odd name was invented because Joe Stamps got confused at auctions too often with other Stamps and wasn't about to pay for their mistakes, too. He and his partner

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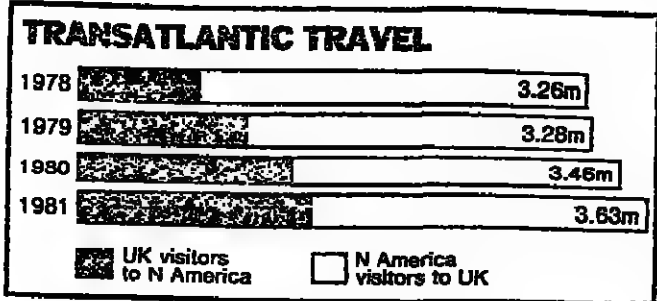






## BUSINESS NEWS

### More go transatlantic



Although December figures for transatlantic travel, of which Laker has been accounting for more than 20 per cent, have still to be announced, there is expected to have been some increase last year over 1980, rising to about 3.5 million crossings from 1980's flow of rather more than 3.4 million. North American visitors to Britain, whose numbers had declined by 5 per cent in 1980, in the third quarter of last year edged up by 1 per cent over the same quarter of 1980. But the same quarterly comparison of Britons travelling to North America shows only a 6 per cent rise compared with the 27 per cent increase in 1980 over the previous year. Laker increased its carryings over the Atlantic by just over 14 per cent last year to 834,500 one-way passages.

### Fewer US jobless

The number of unemployed in the United States, now at 9.2 million, showed a surprise drop last month. The jobless rate fell from 8.8 per cent in December to 8.5 per cent — the first decline since last June. But Labour Department officials said the January figures appear to be an aberration — due to fewer hirings of seasonal workers in December — and do not represent any real improvement. The figures revealed a big increase in unemployment among industrial workers.

### 600 more jobs lost

Another serious blow to employment hit Kent's Medway town today when the Rochester engineering firm of Winger announced it is to close, with the loss of 600 jobs. The shutdown follows decisions to close Chatham dockyard, with the loss of nearly 7,000 jobs, and British Petroleum's Isle of Grain oil refinery, with the loss of a further 1,600 jobs.

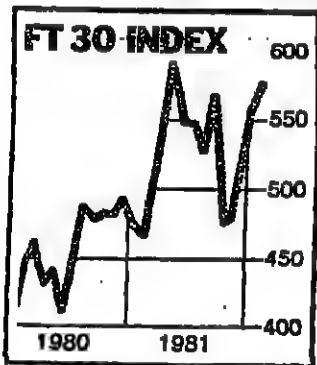
### \$1,000m Ford loss Steel warning

Ford Motor Company of the United States lost more than \$1,000m (£537m) last year, it confirmed during negotiations with the car workers union. Results will be officially announced in a few weeks. General Motors this week announced a profit of \$333m (£179m) for last year, although its operating account showed a loss of \$138m (£74m). Chrysler's results are believed to show a \$550m (£295m) loss.

United States' steelmakers were yesterday accused of violating a 1977 world steel pact and international trade law by filing anti-dumping actions against European industry. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) consultative committee, which groups together steel interests, warned of the grave consequences of charges that European steel exports had caused damage to the American industry.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### Laker boosts holiday firms



### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.8 up 3.3  
FT Gilt 65.15 up 0.20  
FT all share 329.93 up 1.21  
Bargains 23,166

An air of optimism continued to hang over the market yesterday, despite the fact that Laker Airways had gone bust with debts of £200m.

The Government's apparent success at controlling public sector spending and the prospect of a 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates over the next few months came as good news.

Equities made further headway with the FT Index ending the second leg of the long three-weeker 3.3 up at 578.1. A rise on the account so far of 10.9.

Gilt were also in a cheerful mood, scoring further rises of 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 to 10 1/2 to 11 1/2 to 12 1/2 to 13 1/2 to 14 1/2 to 15 1/2 to 16 1/2 to 17 1/2 to 18 1/2 to 19 1/2 to 20 1/2 to 21 1/2 to 22 1/2 to 23 1/2 to 24 1/2 to 25 1/2 to 26 1/2 to 27 1/2 to 28 1/2 to 29 1/2 to 30 1/2 to 31 1/2 to 32 1/2 to 33 1/2 to 34 1/2 to 35 1/2 to 36 1/2 to 37 1/2 to 38 1/2 to 39 1/2 to 40 1/2 to 41 1/2 to 42 1/2 to 43 1/2 to 44 1/2 to 45 1/2 to 46 1/2 to 47 1/2 to 48 1/2 to 49 1/2 to 50 1/2 to 51 1/2 to 52 1/2 to 53 1/2 to 54 1/2 to 55 1/2 to 56 1/2 to 57 1/2 to 58 1/2 to 59 1/2 to 60 1/2 to 61 1/2 to 62 1/2 to 63 1/2 to 64 1/2 to 65 1/2 to 66 1/2 to 67 1/2 to 68 1/2 to 69 1/2 to 70 1/2 to 71 1/2 to 72 1/2 to 73 1/2 to 74 1/2 to 75 1/2 to 76 1/2 to 77 1/2 to 78 1/2 to 79 1/2 to 80 1/2 to 81 1/2 to 82 1/2 to 83 1/2 to 84 1/2 to 85 1/2 to 86 1/2 to 87 1/2 to 88 1/2 to 89 1/2 to 90 1/2 to 91 1/2 to 92 1/2 to 93 1/2 to 94 1/2 to 95 1/2 to 96 1/2 to 97 1/2 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## FAMILY MONEY

### Taking tax relief on 'venture' trusts

One of Sir Geoffrey Howe's more imaginative schemes as Chancellor looks set to bear its first fruits with the investment this week by Electra Risk Capital (ERIC) in electronic systems.

This scheme, under the parentage of Electra Investment Trust, is one of only three set up in recent months to take advantage of generous tax concessions available to individuals who invest in new businesses. The others are the Basildon Fund from stockbrokers Laurence Prust, and the Creative Capital Fund marketed by the British Linen Bank - part of the Bank of Scotland.

The schemes have enormous appeal for higher-rate taxpayers who can obtain tax relief at their highest rate paid on investments of up to £10,000 in each year.

Criticism has centred on the fact that the Electra scheme and, to a lesser extent, the Basildon Fund have a built-in incentive not to invest, since they enjoy the benefits of interest on the cash which remains on deposit. The investor obtains no tax relief until the funds are invested.

However, since the relaunch of ERIC last September after the Mark 1 version last April was a flop, the scheme has pulled in £8.7m. This week's announcement of a £250,000 stake in the electronic office services of Urwick-Nexos leaves ERIC with nearly £8.5m to invest. Gordon Dean the managing director will clearly have to go some to find a suitable home for even 10 per cent of the money in what remains of this financial year. In the meantime, ERIC is in the happy position of earning a high rate of interest which is not passed on to its 1,800 investors.

Admittedly, the scheme does not impose a front-end charge but investors should not be content with the situation whereby interest

earned is earmarked entirely to defray the cost of launching the scheme and investing potential investments.

Mr Dean says he is currently looking at 24 possible investments. These are mainly in the word processing and video fields but there is also the idea of investing in a chain of old people's homes. Mr Dean says he has "a useful nucleus which will come to fruition in a short time". Meanwhile, there is a strong argument that £8.5m of investors' money should be treated rather more generously.

ERIC offers investors master shares at £2,500 each. A minimum purchase is one master share. For an individual paying income tax at 60 per cent, plus 15 per cent investment income surcharge, tax relief will be a full 75 per cent, or £1,875, reducing the net cost of a master share to £1,625. The true cost of a master share to a 50 per cent taxpayer would be £1,250.

Laurence Prust's Basildon Fund, launched last Autumn, drew a comparatively modest £1.1m, mainly from its own clients. It has a 7 per cent "front-end load" and while money is on deposit, Laurence Prust retains 3 per cent of any interest. "There is enormous pressure on us to invest and we have already cleared investments of up to £450,000," they say.

The firm is poised to put money into what is described as a "pleasantly diversified" set of investments ranging from energy saving through leisure to medicine. Laurence Prust will shortly be seeking another £1m tranche, though next time it will be looking beyond its own clients.

Charges are also likely to be structured more in line with the ERIC formula, on the grounds that higher rate taxpayers do not want income but capital gain.

The British Linen Bank's Creative Capital Fund is the only one currently available to investors. It is open until the end of February, but may close earlier if it reaches its target of £1m. It offers a master share of £2,500 but unlike ERIC, it pays a commercial rate of interest to investors while their money is on deposit.

The ground rules of these schemes, though simple in essence, are made irritatingly complex by a string of pre-conditions. Basically, the deal is as follows: payment of the three tax years 1981-82 to 1983-84, the business start-up scheme will give relief to investors at their top income tax rate (including investment income surcharge), on up to £10,000 a year of money invested in ordinary shares of certain types of new companies. At top tax rates this means that the £10,000 investment may cost the individual only £2,500 after tax relief.

These companies include those involved in manufacturing, construction and distribution but exclude for example, commodities, share dealing, land transactions and financial activities.

To qualify for tax relief, the minimum investment in any one company is £500. The investor may own up to 30 per cent of the company in which he invests but he may not control it and he cannot be a paid director or employee.

### Extra income for the elderly

The index-linked Home Annuity Scheme launched by the Building Trust last week, which provides extra income for elderly people with an unmortgaged property, is even better than we first thought.

Homeowners who want to increase their spendable income raise a loan from the Building Trust against the security of the home and use the lump sum to buy an annuity - an income for life. Part of the annuity payment is used to pay the interest on the loan, and the balance is extra spendable income.

Borrowers from the Building Trust can opt to have half the loan index-linked to any increase in house prices, and pay interest at two-thirds the building societies' recommended rate. Alternatively they can have the entire loan index-linked and pay interest at only one-third the building societies' recommended rate. This dramatically increases the amount of spendable income.

Mr Robin Ellison, Managing Director of the Building Trust, reports overwhelming response from borrowers wanting to raise an index-linked loan but a less dramatic reaction from the pension funds which are being offered partially index-linked investment opportunities.

This could be one area where the pension funds might exercise a degree of social responsibility if it enabled elderly people to live more comfortably in retirement. The people who would benefit might well be their own pensioners.

Lorna Bourke

There is nothing to prevent direct investment but the problem is that few individuals have the time and expertise to seek out and evaluate such companies themselves.

According to Mark Powell, of stockbrokers Laing & Cruickshank, the tax relief should be only a secondary incentive. He says: "It's a high risk investment, so you have to believe in the investment itself."

Last word goes to Eddie Ray, senior tax partner of chartered accountants Spicer and Pegler. There are lots of takers but very little opportunity to invest.

Peter Gartland Gordon Dean, managing director of Electra Risk Capital

### Rise in gilts gives fund managers new confidence

The half per cent cut in interest rates last month precipitated a rise in gilts and as the table shows, some offshore gilt funds have seen the return of nearly four per cent over the month.

However, this has been achieved from a very low base, as over the previous 12 months of 1981, investors saw a dramatic decline in the value of their investments with only two trusts - Allen Harvey & Ross's Gilt Fund and Tyndall's Gilt Fund - showing a positive return. Anyone unfortunate enough to have held the Invicta Gilt Income Fund (formerly Gilt Fund CI) will have seen an overall loss during 1981 of 8.62 per cent. But if you strip out the 15 per cent that went to the unit holder as income, the capital loss works out at 24 per cent.

The price of gilts is dominated entirely by interest rate considerations. When interest rates rise - as they did in the last few months of 1981 - gilt prices slide. Last month saw a half per cent cut in interest rates and gilt prices have risen correspondingly giving more than 50 per cent of the trusts a positive return over the first four weeks of this year. And this has put new heart in fund managers. "I think 1982 will not be a bad year overall," says Alan Johnson, "simply because we start from such a low base."

#### OFFSHORE GILT FUNDS PERFORMANCE - TOTAL RETURN

FUND	One Month	Total Return 1981
1 Allen Harvey & Ross Gilt Fund	+3.58	+2.10
2 GT Anchor Gilt Edge	+3.00	-2.38
3 Midland Drayton Gilt Fund	+2.73	-2.08
4 Lloyd's Trust Gilt	+2.13	-1.13
5 King & Shaxson Gilt Fund	+1.84	-4.72
6 Kleinwort Benson Gilt Fund	+1.79	-0.94
7 Brown Shipley Sterling Fund	+1.74	-2.83
8 Nat West High Income	+1.63	-0.42
9 Arbuthnot Gov. Securities	+1.50	-4.41
10 Fidelity Gilt Fund	+1.46	-2.85
11 Crockett Gilt Trust	+1.42	-0.98
12 Tyndall Gilt Fund	+1.32	+1.00
13 TSB Gilt Fund	+0.29	-0.28
14 Garmore Gilt Fund	0.00	-8.15
15 Britannia Gilt Trust	-0.07	-0.24
16 Barclays Unigilt	-0.18	-5.24
17 Invicta Gilt Income	-0.86	-8.62
18 Invicta Gilt Growth	-0.89	-7.95
19 Hill Samuel Gilt	-1.12	-2.84
20 S & P Sterling Fund	-1.53	-1.29
21 Henderson Baring Gilt	-1.95	-2.61
22 Hambros Gilt Fund	-2.07	-6.85
23 Quest Sterling Fixed Interest	-2.84	-6.85
24 Schroder Gilt Fund	-2.45	-6.85

Dividend deduction on offshore gilt funds are paid gross, without tax

This view is echoed by Michael Lawrence of Allen Harvey and Ross who has managed to turn in the top performance over both 1981 and for the first month of this year. "I am the eternal optimist," he says. Interest rates in Britain have eased a little but he points out that they are dependent on interest rate movements in America. "I would stick my neck

out though and say that 1982 is going to be better than 1981," he says.

Stuart Goldsmith, investment director of Britannia is more cautious. "Interest rates are not going to come down terribly quickly - later in the year we are more optimistic," he says.

Lorna Bourke

## MONEY TALK

### Attractive rates for stop-loss insurance

Members of Lloyd's who want to insure any potential losses can take advantage of attractive rates on "stop-loss" insurance negotiated by the Association of External Members of Lloyd's - though you have to be a member of the association to be eligible.

On payment of the premium a member is covered for losses of up to £200,000 with an excess of between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on the premium income limit. A special feature of this particular stop-loss cover is that you do not have to repay your profits in future years to the underwriters who have paid your losses. The annual premium can be set against income tax, including the investment income surcharge.

Further details from The Association of External Members of Lloyd's, c/o Dr John Maxwell, Maxwell International, FREEPOST, London WC2E 7BR.

#### Loan scheme

Home loans schemes linked to a self-employed pension plan instead of the more conventional with-profits policy, are sprouting like mushrooms. And very attractive they are too for higher rate taxpayers, who are self-employed or in non-pensionable employment. Latest to launch a scheme is Provident Life, which has links with a number of building societies and can arrange a loan of up to 90 per cent of the property valuation. The attraction of pension-linked schemes is that pension premiums are eligible for tax relief at highest rate paid by the individual. Life policy premiums only attract tax relief at 15 per cent.

#### Share account

The Hearts of Oak & Enfield Building Society has launched a new Summit Share Account, guaranteeing 2% per cent above the BSA recommended rate for six years. At present this is 12 per cent net pa - 12.35 per cent if interest is calculated twice yearly - the choice is yours. The minimum investment is £1,000, maximum £20,000, and withdrawals can be made at any time with 90 days loss of interest.

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You can withdraw any amount any time by giving us 28 days' notice. You only lose interest for 28 days on the amount you withdraw.

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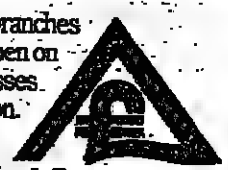
The 5-year investment, for a minimum of £500 and over, that guarantees you 2% extra interest above our variable Share Account rate.

And you can withdraw all or part of your money by giving us 90 days' notice at any time. If the withdrawal would leave you with a balance of less than £500 then the whole balance must be withdrawn - but you can always re-invest it in a Share Account. You only lose interest during the notice period on the amount you withdraw. Your money is, of course, available at the end of 5 years without loss of interest.

Interest can be paid to you as regular income, monthly or half-yearly. Or you can leave your interest invested in your Bond where it will itself earn yet more interest at the Bond rate.

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FAMILY MONEY

Funds finding it pays to be backing Britain

Funds concentrating on British investments have made the best start in the 1982 unit trust league table. Indeed, such was the strength of the British stock market in January compared with its major overseas counterparts that less than a dozen of the first 300 funds in last month's performance list are predominantly invested abroad.

The overall leaders include a wide variety of recovery, smaller company and high income trusts. At this stage of the economic cycle, with the worst of the recession apparently behind us, income funds have a lot in common with recovery portfolios.

Yield requirements frequently necessitate managers buying cyclical stocks currently down on their fortunes or out of favour with the market. Over the past couple of years there have been plenty of British manufacturing companies falling into these categories.

Now with industrial recovery in sight or just over the horizon, the M & G management group recently described the domestic manufacturing sector "as the brightest feature in the world investment scene". Certainly, the unit trust group well anticipated the stock market rally in the FT Actuaries Industrial Group Index ending January at its all-time peak.

With its sizeable exposure to the manufacturing sector, M & G suggests that British yield-oriented trusts have most to gain from our industrial recovery: "These

Fighting for a fair share of the pension

The Government is acting speedily to change the laws governing maintenance after divorce. But one increasingly thorny problem — pensions — highlighted by the Law Commission in its report on the financial consequences of divorce, is unlikely to be tackled in the forthcoming Bill. This is a shame, for while the arguments for and against maintenance still rage, many ex-wives and ex-husbands agree over pensions.

Under existing pensions legislation, an ex-wife cannot claim a share in a husband's pension, though one may have a claim to any dependants benefits or lump-sum death benefits if the trustees discretion allows. With the growth of occupational pension schemes and the amazing sums of money involved in the public sector, a man's pension may be the family's biggest asset. Up-market divorces these days often involve an unseemly tussle over how, and how much, the ex-wife should be compensated for her loss.

Although the pension funds cannot, by law, recognise her claim to part of a widow's pension, the matrimonial courts do. So compensation has to be paid out of the husband's share of current assets. This seems as unfair as an ex-wife being shut out completely, particularly since the ex-wife might be able to claim a share of the pension fund if the husband were to die before she was divorced.

Mr David Lindsay, senior solicitor at the Law Commission, said in a recent letter to *The Times*: "My pension fund, whose members include high-earning pilots on index-linked pensions, has come up against a problem. It is impossible to compensate an ex-wife for the loss of a widow's pension without leaving the husband with nothing. By law we are not allowed to split the pension. Even if we were allowed to, I would much rather accept the direction of the court."



The divorce courts have no powers over pension rights and payments in divorce settlements — they can only carve up the existing assets in lieu of them. So in many cases, a husband is required to transfer his half of the matrimonial home to an ex-wife, to compensate her for some potential future loss. If the widow's pension could be divided by the courts or the pension funds as is on the Continent, where wives past and present are paid on a pro-rata basis, the problem would be solved.

The Law Commission would clear like this death with in the new divorce legislation. So would the Occupational Pensions

Family Assurance report is expected soon

Investors in the Family Assurance Society can soon expect to receive the society's annual report and accounts for 1981. Following the upheavals last year, when the Registrar of Friendly Societies gave notification that he intended preventing the society from taking on new business unless changes were made, some investors may have been uneasy about their policy.

The 1981 accounts are due on February 17 and should be published soon afterwards. "We have our fingers crossed that most of the problems that arose in previous years have been overcome," said John Clark, of Family Assurance.

He is hoping that the auditors, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, will give the society a clean bill of health. The accounts had been strongly qualified in previous years by Morrison Stoneham, the auditors at that time, on the grounds that the society had failed to keep proper records.

Family Assurance has had management consultants looking at their systems for more than six months and hopes that the book-keeping shortcomings have been rectified. Trouble developed some time ago with the introduction of a computer system which appears to have been badly programmed.

This resulted in policyholders being credited with units in the investment fund even though they may not have paid their annual premium. This has been rectified and policyholders have been asked to pay arrears or have their policies made "paid up".

The over-allocation of units meant that the fund was being valued on a conservative basis, so it is possible that investors will see some improvement.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies has been keeping a close eye on developments and is likely to keep the assurance society on a short rein for a while. So it looks as though most of investors' qualms have proved unfounded. We will know for certain when the accounts are published.

Meanwhile Ralph James, a member of Family Assurance, who was due to be co-opted on to the society's committee of management, has not been asked to take his place, and is taking the matter to arbitration.

Members of the society who attended the stormy annual general meeting last May voted in favour of Mr James being co-opted on to the Committee, but Mr James says that after six months he was advised by Bob Morrison, chairman of the society, that the committee has decided not to accept the recommendation of the AGM.

Family Assurance is a tax-free friendly society with some 50,000 investors and assets in excess of £8 million. Its affairs came under the spotlight a year ago when the Registrar of Friendly Societies called for a new independent committee

Michael Hockings

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

**Bankers**  
Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays 12 per cent, Lloyds, 11 per cent, NatWest 10 per cent. Days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month 14 per cent, 3 and 6 months, 13 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

**Money funds**  
Simco 7-day fund, 14.29 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.25 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.68 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233). Tyndall (0272-732241). UDT scheme now closed to new investment.

**National Savings Bank**  
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — "15 per cent" interest paid weekly, deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £200,000. "Reducing to 14 per cent on 1st March."

**National Savings Index-linked certificates**  
Maximum investment £10,000. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. 4 per cent bonus if held five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.81 including 4 per cent bonus.

**Local authority yearling bonds**  
12-month fixed rate investments. Interest 14 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

**Local authority town hall bonds**  
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Cleveland 14 pc; 2 years, Kirkcaldy 14 pc; 3 years, Barnsley 14 pc; 4-5 years, Knowsley 14 pc; 6-7 years, Hereford and Worcester 15 pc; 8 years, Knowsley 14 pc; 9-10 years, Reading 14 pc. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

**Finance for industry**  
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13 1/2 pc; 5-6 years, 13 1/2 pc; 7 years, 13 1/2 pc; 8-9 years, 14 pc; 10 years, 14 1/2 pc. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

**Finance house deposits (UDT)**  
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 14 pc; 1 year, 14 1/2 pc; 2 years, 14 1/2 pc. Foreign currency deposits\* interest paid without deduction of tax.

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Yen (2 days) 2 1/2 p.c. 2 1/2 p.c.  
D. Mark 6 1/2 p.c. 7 p.c.  
French franc 10 1/2 p.c. 10 1/2 p.c.  
Swiss franc 1 1/2 p.c. 1 1/2 p.c.

\*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

Unit Trust Performance

The tables show the value on February 1 of £100 worth of units invested 12 months ago (column A) and three years ago (column B) and net income reinvested and based on offer to offer price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Magazine.

FINANCIAL	A	B
Target/Invest Trst	125.4	185.7
Target/Financial	123.3	157.9
Abbey Widw Bond	122.8	157.9
Target/Financial	121.2	177.6
GT Widw Bond	116.7	163.2
S&P PTTU	115.9	155.6
Abbey Invest Trst	115.8	165.7
Finlay Inv Trst	115.4	165.7
Nat West Fincl	114.7	159.5
S&P PTTU	114.7	159.5
Kleinwort B Fitt	114.6	171.9
Hill Samuel/Fin	112.7	178.4
Perpetual	112.7	178.4
M&G/Fitt	111.6	178.0
Brown Ship Fin	109.6	167.3
Britannia Fin Sc	109.6	167.3
S&P Scot/Bond	109.0	143.8
Perpetual	108.4	154.8
Britannia Inv T	106.4	154.8
Arbuthnot Capital	105.8	179.8
Craigmont Gth	105.3	185.7
Barclay's Fincl	103.4	174.2
Barclay's Prop S	103.2	160.4
London Wall/Fin	103.1	204.7
Henderson Fincl	103.0	191.0
S&P G&F Gov Sec	102.7	—
Tyndall/Gilt Inv	102.6	116.0
Target/Gilt Inv	102.5	116.0
Britannia Gilt	101.9	122.1
Abbey Gilt & Pd	101.8	—
Barclay's Gilt	101.7	104.5
Key Fixed Int	101.2	—
Hill Samuel Gilt	101.2	—
Nat West Income	101.2	—
Garmore Gilt	101.1	—
Arbuthnot G&P	101.1	145.9
Midland Drayton G	100.8	—
S&P G&F Inv	100.8	—
Target/Gilt Inv	100.7	—
NPI Gth	100.3	106.4
Target/Pref	100.2	114.7
Henderson P&G	99.9	110.2
Arbuthnot G&F	99.5	110.0
Fidelity G&F Int	99.0	—
Henderson Gth	98.7	—
Britannia Prof	98.5	—
Arbuthnot Pref	93.9	103.4
Chieftain P&G	93.5	—
GROWTH	A	B
A-Hambro Os Erags	132.4	159.0
Perpetual	130.4	183.5
Target Spcl Sits	128.7	210.2
Frnds Prov Inv	128.0	185.3
Hudson Spcl Sits	127.8	180.6
Tryst Gth	125.8	169.4
Byronic Rec	125.7	146.6
M&G/Rec	125.4	172.0
Schrd Gen	125.1	185.0
A-Hambro Rec Sits	125.1	167.6
User Gth	125.0	146.8
Oltr/Old Rec	124.5	—
Hill Sam/Spcl Sits	124.4	162.7
Perpetual	124.4	162.7
Brown Ship Cap	122.9	166.1
Frnds Prov Inv	121.9	148.4
Brit Assis	121.6	186.7
Garmore Gth	121.2	210.9
Hendons/Cap Gth	120.0	161.0
NPI Gth	119.7	155.4
Abby Capl	119.7	168.6
A-Hambro Acc	119.6	165.7
TSB Gth	119.5	165.7
Equ & Law Gen	118.2	156.4
Byronic Rec	118.2	156.4
Stewt Brit Cap	117.5	158.5
Nat West Gth Inv	117.4	143.7
HK Tech	117.3	126.6
Hill Sam/Cap	117.3	154.7
TSB Scot	117.2	155.3
S&P/Rec	117.2	162.9
Hudson Rec	117.0	119.0
S&P/Cap	116.8	137.6
Brng Brds Strun	116.6	165.5
Fidly Spcl Sits	116.2	—
Byronic Rec	116.1	172.2
Byronic Rec	115.2	160.3
Capel Cap	114.6	150.7
Nat West Cap Inv	114.5	170.0
New Court Equity	114.5	141.8
Lon Wall/Spcl Sits	114.5	108.8
Brown Ship	113.9	29.8
Arbuthnot Gth	113.5	145.5
Schrd Gen	113.5	183.5
Garmore Inv Ags	113.5	144.2
Weller Growth	112.8	143.0
Mamulie Growth	112.7	153.7
Brtspec mkt Sth	112.3	168.5
M&G/Cap Growth	111.7	168.5
Lon Wall Cap Gth	111.6	119.7
HK private	111.1	186.0
Target Prof	109.9	182.3
GT Capl	109.5	141.7
M&G/Cap Gth	108.6	159.7

GENERAL	A	B
Mercury General	139.7	213.1
Barclay's 500	135.3	162.9
NatWest Smr Cos	133.1	—
Pelican Units	131.9	175.9
Arbuthnot Smr Cos	130.7	160.8
Norwich Up Gp Tr	129.1	158.6
M&A Trst	128.8	218.9
A-Hambro Gth/Inv	127.8	184.1
Reliance Opportunity	126.9	138.9
Intel Smr Cos	126.5	—
New Court Smr Cos	125.9	190.3
Reliance S&K/Inv	125.0	130.1
Barclay's Trustee	124.8	163.7
Perpetual	124.5	154.5
Barclay's Investm	123.9	160.6
Lloyds Balanced	123.6	171.7
T&G/Barbican	122.6	156.1
A-Hambro E&I Ind	122.5	158.7
Legal & Gen Equ	122.4	179.0
G&A Units	122.2	164.3
Minster	122.1	145.5
Tyndall/Inter Eangs	121.9	161.4
M&G/Trustee	121.8	149.8
Abbey Growth	121.7	156.7
M&G/General	121.7	162.7
Schrd Gen	121.3	—
Britannia Recovery	121.2	157.9
Britannia UK Bldg	121.1	156.7
Reynolds Smr Cos	120.8	—
A-Hambro 2nd Sm Cos	120.7	165.0
British Life	120.6	155.9
Quilter/Quadrant Gen	120.5	171.8
HS Small Cos	120.4	172.7
Lloyds Life Equity	120.4	172.7
Barclay's Gen	119.5	157.3
GT/Wickmoor	119.5	161.2
Grierson/Barrington	118.9	161.2
Prudential/Trust	118.7	157.5
Crecent Reserves	118.5	155.5
A-Hambro First	118.4	161.0
Reliance Smr Cos	118.1	146.5
Equities Unit	118.1	149.6
Brown Shipley Inv	117.9	157.0
Brit Life Balanced	117.9	147.1
M&G Second Gen	117.7	164.3
A-Hambro Brit Inv	117.7	164.0
A-Hambro Fund	117.6	151.4
Hill Samuel/Scry	117.5	146.8
T&G/Colman	117.3	163.3
S&P/UK Equity	116.9	168.7
Family Fund	116.9	144.2
A-Hambro Smr Cos	116.9	173.6
Leo Capl	116.7	173.6
Reynolds/Com&Ass	116.5	168.3
Alben	116.5	144.4
Guardrail	116.5	171.3
Target/Equity	116.4	158.9
A-Hambro Capital	116.4	158.9
Kleinwrt Busn Sm Cos	116.3	144.2
Kleinwrt Busn Int Fd	116.3	161.2
Roman Mercl	116.3	161.2
Trustee Union Units	116.0	154.7
Britannia Small Cos	115.3	157.3
Hill Samuel/Brit	115.3	156.8
S&P/Scot/Bond	115.1	137.7
Collins/Hill	115.1	137.7
Barclay's Pro Asn	114.7	186.8
Grierson/Barrington	114.5	168.5
Confined Growth Unit	114.5	168.5
Key Small Cos Fund	113.2	171.4
Scottish Equit Unit	113.2	147.0
Anderson	113.0	140.2
Mutual/Biue Chip	112.6	145.5
Friars House	112.5	160.5
Rowan Securities	112.5	169.2
Key Equity and Gen	112.5	150.6
Mayflower General	112.3	126.1
Target Income & Gth	112.1	150.0
NatWest Prof Inv	110.9	134.4
M&G Smr Cos	110.7	169.0
Mutual/Security Plus	110.1	126.1
Canille General	109.6	137.1
Norridge	109.6	137.1
Archway Fund	109.0	163.3
Britannia Domestic	108.4	142.3
Intem & Gwth	108.0	120.2
Brown Shipley Units	107.5	147.2
Canally Clean Fund	107.3	147.3
UK Market Leaders	106.6	144.4
Britannia Cap & Ind	106.4	125.3
Gowat/Schldrs Euro	102.7	160.0
Britannia Shield	100.7	146.0
Target/Buckham	100.1	126.4
Rob Fraser Trst	91.9	130.0
OVERSEAS	A	B
Hill Sam. Far East	148.6	—
Arbuthnot E&I Ind	141.2	208.4
Target Tokyo	136.3	165.6
S&P/Japan Growth	136.0	127.4
Grierson/Ldn&Brus	135.3	141.6
Bishopsgate Int	134.0	148.1
Shimizu Japan	133.0	168.7
Target Pacific	129.4	148.6
Mid. Drayton Jap.	129.1	115.8
Henderson/European	128.1	186.6
Gr Winch. Overseas	128.1	186.6

Margaret Drummond

LAST WEEK OF INITIAL OFFER



PERPETUAL GROUP WORLDWIDE RECOVERY FUND

A chance to be in the right investments as the climate changes.

The world in general is currently experiencing a very deep trade recession. In our opinion investments made now in depressed shares worldwide offer outstanding growth prospects. Indeed, similar opportunities may not occur again for many years.

This is why Perpetual are launching their new Worldwide Recovery Fund — and launching it NOW.

**Investment Objectives**  
The aim of the Fund is maximum capital growth. The Fund will be invested in a diverse range of companies around the world which Perpetual believe have exceptional recovery prospects due to the companies concerned having fallen on hard times or their share prices being temporarily out of favour with investors. The Fund is speculative and the risk/reward ratio is high so that performance could be volatile.

It is anticipated that the Fund's initial portfolio will be deployed as follows: Canada 5%, Far East 20%, South Africa 5%, U.K. 55%, U.S.A. 15%. The U.K. content will be biased towards companies having substantial overseas interests. Percentage allocations will vary at the sole discretion of the Managers.

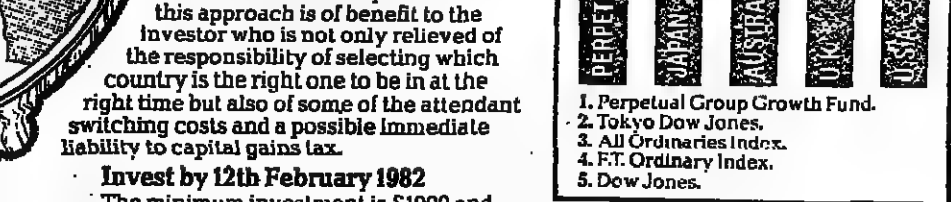
**Successful Management**  
Perpetual manage only two other Funds — a Growth Fund and an Income Fund — and both have had exceptional records since launch. The Growth Fund has consistently retained its place as Britain's top performing unit trust for capital growth since launch in September 1974, while the Income Fund was the top performing income fund for capital growth in 1981.

The average rise in the offer to offer prices of our two existing funds over the year to 31st December 1981 was 25% net income reinvested.

**Worldwide Philosophy**  
Perpetual will be continuing their worldwide investment approach which has been a feature of their investment philosophy with their other two Funds. Perpetual consider this approach is of benefit to the investor who is not only relieved of the responsibility of selecting which country is the right one to be in at the right time but also of some of the attendant switching costs and a possible immediate liability to capital gains tax.

**Invest by 12th February 1982**  
The minimum investment is £1000 and units are on offer at a fixed price of 50p until 12th February 1982. Simply complete the coupon below and send it to us together with your cheque.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.



1. Perpetual Group Growth Fund.  
2. Tokyo Dow Jones.  
3. All Ordinaries Index.  
4. FT Ordinary Index.  
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**General Information**  
Units are accumulation units. Income is automatically reinvested in the Fund. The estimated gross commencing yield is 3% per annum. All applications will be acknowledged and certificates will be forwarded by 30th April 1982.

**SPECIALIST**  
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S&P/Commod Shrs 97.0 164.9  
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I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £1000)

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I/We enclose a remittance, payable to Perpetual Unit Trust Management Ltd.  
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(Joint applicants must all sign and attach names and address separately.)



## Stock Exchange Prices

## Confident mood

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 13. Settlement Day, Feb 22

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

[illegible]







## Irish and French provide bold rugby challenge

## Solid beginning could help England to top of championship table

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

A distinctly anxious week for the English camp took a more cheerful turn yesterday when Peter Wheeler, whose back was injured at training last Monday, was passed fit to play against Ireland in the international at Twickenham this afternoon.

As it is, England take the field with a side showing two ailing changes and two deliberate ones as compared with that which drew on at Murrayfield, Jim Syddall, on his international debut, and Tony Bond, acquiring his first cap for two years, are the replacements at lock and centre.

John Scott, who will be playing only his third game of the season, has been recalled at No. 8 to provide greater control at the back, to boost the lineout potential and to renew what has always been a fruitful rapport with the new captain, Steve Smith. Philip Blackwell, a redoubtable tight-head prop, has been restored to anchor the scrumming attack, the Scots subjected to some disruptive wheeling.

If the reconstituted pack looks less mobile than its predecessor, it may be the heaviest to appear in league jerseys. Syddall is a bigger man than Beaumont at 6ft 5in and 17st 2lb. Maurice Colclough weighs in at 17 stone and a half, Colin Smart, Blackwell, Scott and Nick Jeavons at 16st or more. Colclough is the same height as Syddall, Scott and Jeavons not more than an inch below him. The average weight is not much less than 16 stones.

In purely physical terms, then, England should have the means to win the test series, but the Irish will be formidable. They have beaten their forwards received at Twickenham two seasons ago, when, admittedly the English pack included Fran Cotton, Roger Urney and Tony Neary.

That routing English first, inspired by Beaumont, was achieved against an Irish side, seven of whom survive for this further chance to redeem themselves. The young lock, David Leman, who had an especially fine game

at the lineout against Wales, is the only newcomer. There was little control about the Irish forward effort in 1980, less fire in the belly than had been anticipated. Ireland produced both that emphatic victory over Wales a fortnight ago, and England will not be expecting any surprising bonuses now.

Nor will they look for excuses if they give the Irish mainline. "Ollie" Campbell, as much licence as the Welsh showed him close in. Paul McLean (Australia) and John Rutherford (Scotland) will testify to the pressure they faced from England's fast and fiery new flanker, Peter Winterbottom.

Scott, though it may be asking too much of him, to roam the wide open spaces for 80 minutes, is a hard and knowledgeable opponent at close quarters. And stand off, Dave Davies will contribute to the pressure as a defender than his limping name-sake was able to offer in Dublin. "Blaw" Davies, is no "duty" tucker. He sees it as a vital and enjoyable part of his job.

In defensive terms, too, England will have no worse off with Bond, a voracious tackler, in their middle. "It's tough luck on Paul Dodds," he said yesterday, "but I have to admit that I couldn't keep the spot off my face when he heard the great news that I was playing—and being given the chance to complete a game against Ireland."

If Ireland can recapture the inspiration and control revealed against Wales, they will be difficult to beat. They have a battle-hardened pack, a brilliant general and master kicker at stand off and fast and skilful young backs. Yet, although the odds on a victory for the home side, must have shortened this week, Ireland are not the team to be underestimated. As a side, they are still a bit of a puzzle. As a side, they are still a bit of a puzzle. As a side, they are still a bit of a puzzle.



Peter Wheeler and the England pack take a breather from scrummaging practice.

## Today's teams at Twickenham

England			Ireland		
W. M. H. Rose	15	Full back	H. P. MacNeill	15	Full back
T. M. Kingston	14	Right wing	T. M. Kingston	14	Right wing
C. R. Woodward	13	Right centre	C. R. Woodward	13	Right centre
A. M. Bond	12	Left centre	P. M. Dean	12	Left centre
M. A. C. Siemien	11	Left wing	M. A. C. Siemien	11	Left wing
S. J. Smith	10	Stand-off	O. S. Campbell	10	Stand-off
S. J. Smith	9	Scrum half	S. J. Smith	9	Scrum half
C. E. Smart	8	Prop	C. E. Smart	8	Prop
P. J. Wheeler	7	Hooker	P. J. Wheeler	7	Hooker
F. J. Blackwell	6	Prop	G. A. J. McLaughlin	6	Prop
N. C. Evans	5	Flanker	J. F. Slattery	5	Flanker
J. M. Vagg	4	Lock	M. Blackwell	4	Lock
M. W. Winterbottom	3	Lock	D. Llewellyn	3	Lock
P. J. Winterbottom	2	Flanker	J. F. Slattery	2	Flanker
J. P. Scott	1	No 8	W. P. Duggan	1	No 8

Replacements: 16 N. C. Sirrine  
17 R. M. Kingston  
18 N. M

REPLACEMENTS: 16 N. C. Evans (England), 17 G. A. J. McLaughlin (Ireland), 18 J. P. Scott (England), 19 J. P. Scott (England), 20 J. P. Scott (England), 21 J. P. Scott (England), 22 J. P. Scott (England), 23 J. P. Scott (England), 24 J. P. Scott (England), 25 J. P. Scott (England), 26 J. P. Scott (England), 27 J. P. Scott (England), 28 J. P. Scott (England), 29 J. P. Scott (England), 30 J. P. Scott (England), 31 J. P. Scott (England), 32 J. P. Scott (England), 33 J. P. Scott (England), 34 J. P. Scott (England), 35 J. P. Scott (England), 36 J. P. Scott (England), 37 J. P. Scott (England), 38 J. P. Scott (England), 39 J. P. Scott (England), 40 J. P. Scott (England), 41 J. P. Scott (England), 42 J. P. Scott (England), 43 J. P. Scott (England), 44 J. P. Scott (England), 45 J. P. Scott (England), 46 J. P. Scott (England), 47 J. P. Scott (England), 48 J. P. Scott (England), 49 J. P. Scott (England), 50 J. P. Scott (England), 51 J. P. Scott (England), 52 J. P. Scott (England), 53 J. P. 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Racing

# Take Bregawn to stay one step ahead of handicapper

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

Bregawn is the favourite selection to win the Freshfields Holidays Handicap at Kempton Park this afternoon. Only if Michael Dickinson's much improved eight-year-old looks a trifle stale in the paddock, beforehand, after two races in the last fortnight, would it be wise to reassess the situation. In that instance I would turn to Night Nurse.

Dickinson clearly believes that Bregawn is not yet at his best. He would not have sent him on the long journey from Yorkshire. Against that backdrop, it is only sensible to strike again with Bregawn while the iron is still hot and before the handicapper has had time to take his victories at Haydock Park and Doncaster into account.

Just the briefest of glances through this week's racing calendar will show that Bregawn had already gone up the ladder 10 lb for winning at Haydock Park alone. Those races are in the future though, and as far as today's race is concerned, he escapes a penalty of any kind. Since then he has won the Great Yorkshire Steeplechase at Doncaster.

When Bregawn won the Peter Marsh Steeplechase at Haydock he beat Night Nurse by 5 lengths. He was receiving 13 lb from Night Nurse then. Today the difference between the two is 20 lb.

Earlier in the season, Night Nurse gave Lesley Ann 10 lb and a four lengths beating in the Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury. Although Bregawn's mare will be receiving an additional 2 lb from Night Nurse this afternoon, it should not be enough to affect her around a course as sharp as Kempton.

Lesley Ann is in her element at somewhere like Cheltenham, where she won the Sun Alliance

Steeplechase last March and the Tote Double Steeplechase a week ago.

At his best, Border Incident would be a very tough nut to crack with only 10 lb. However, his trainer, Richard Head, was quick to point out yesterday that his old favourite has not had a race since November. "In the circumstances," he said, "I am certain that he will be all the better for the run."

As Royal Judgement's last outing was way back in October, it is only reasonable to expect him, too, to be caught out by lack of fitness, especially when pitted against the likes of Bregawn, Night Nurse and Lesley Ann who must be as hard as nails after their recent activity.

Henry Kissinger's best Dramatic over two and a half miles at Kempton a fortnight ago. In his case, the doubt is whether he will last three miles. He ran indecisively on the only occasion he was tried over that distance last season, but he must be a bit of a doubt, too, about Saint Fillan's ability to stay, because he is such a tearaway.

However, an abundance of statistics, one thing, that the Queen Mother's runner, Special Cargo, does not lack. He won over three miles and five furlongs at Sandown last spring, and he would have won his last race in a bog at Lingfield had he not fallen at the last fence. Special Cargo was beaten to the line by Lesley Ann at Cheltenham last March and I doubt whether the 8 lb that he has received from the handicapper is sufficient for him to close the gap.

Like Lesley Ann, Lascos has also won the Sun Alliance Steeplechase but unlike her, he has missed the whole of last season because of injury.

No matter how Lesley Ann fares, her trainer should, at least,

have the satisfaction of winning the Odey Hurdle with Beighlin, who has a gilt-edged opportunity to atone for his slightly disappointing performance at Cheltenham.

For those with one eye cocked on next Saturday's Schweppes Gold Trophy, it will be interesting to see Donagel Prince and Donagel run against Beighlin, on infinitely worse terms than they will at Newbury.

Walnut Wonder, another Schweppes entry, is one of those to be first in the Spring Handicap Hurdle, which may be won by Kilbride Castle.

While conceding that Golden Vow has the best chance of success on form — Golden Vow has won 4th and best him by three lengths at Wincanton in November — the handicapper has been right yesterday that today is the right moment for his horse to renew rivalry in the valuable Scilly Isles Hurdle. He ran last season at Wincanton in November, but he has been out of the picture since then.

Winter said that his Champion Hurdle hope, that enigmatic character, Derring Rose, is currently out of the picture. He hopes he is enjoying — a spell of hunting in the capable hands of John Francombe's brother-in-law, the above jumping rider, Rickie. "It may be the most bizarre preparation for the Champion Hurdle, of all races, yet it may also be the thing to sweeten him," Winter said.

Derring Rose has all the ability in the world, but he has not won a race at the National Hunt Festival last year by 30 lengths, yet a mind of his own that is so far from the good enough to make on all corners and then one day yet refuse to point back to race the next.

Al Kuwait, Winter's winner of the first division of the Novices Hurdle at Kempton yesterday, is also Cheltenham bound. This was his first race under National Hunt rules and it augurs well.

Even Melody gained the 3rd win of his career in the Rutherford Handicap Steeplechase at Kelso yesterday. Press Association reports, Colin Hawke, the 12st 10lb, took the front at halfway, and they fought out a determined challenge from Ducky Duke on the run-in to win by a length and a half.

Neville Crump, who has always trained Even Melody, said: "He's a lovely old horse. In the old days he would have carried 12st 7lb, never mind 12st 10lb. He's got this lot, but he's getting on a bit now."



Durham Lad, and Anthony Webber, land safely over the last fence on their way to victory in the Park Chase.

## Political Pop heads strong Wetherby raid

By Michael Seely

It is impossible to keep Michael Dickinson's name out of the headlines at present. This afternoon, at Kempton, Bregawn will be out to land his third big prize on consecutive Saturdays. And at his local track, at Wetherby, the Yorkshire trainer has an outstanding chance of landing a treble with Political Pop, Rathgorman and Tommy Joe.

Political Pop runs in the Selby Handicap Steeplechase. This improving eight-year-old has not been seen in public since finishing second to Diamond Edge in the Henbury Cup at Gold Cup at Newbury back in November. That was a first-class performance as after a long chase, he was able to outpace the 12st 10lb, who finished fourth that afternoon, and Sunset Cristo appeared the only danger.

Rathgorman will be out to record his fifth victory over Wetherby's two miles in the Selby Handicap Steeplechase. Rathgorman is almost unbeatable on his day, and seems to find the long straight of the Yorkshire

track to his liking. Why So the 10-length conqueror of the Irish Tall Order, he has been a threat in receipt of so much weight.

The finish of the Foxhunters Chase should be fought out between Tommy Joe and Cheekie Ora. These are useful horses, of this kind of company, and will be ridden by two fine jockeys in David Browne and Peter Green. Cheekie Ora was the champion amateur. Cheekie Ora was this race last year and is said to be more fancied to give a repeat performance, but in receipt of 9 lb, Tommy Joe must be a firm selection.

Stratford-on-Avon's feature is the Big Razor Handicap hurdle. Galway Blaze is a progressive runner who has won his only two races, this season, for Jimmy Fitzgerald. Frassas, who was only caught close home by the 12st 10lb, will be more at home round Stratford's sharp bends and is sure to make a bold bid to take the trophy home to Peter Easterby's stable.

It is also a chance for another rider from Yorkshire, Reggie Driffield.

## Kempton Park programme

Tote double: 2.30 and 3.30. Treble: 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0  
[Television (ITV): 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]  
1.30 SPRING HURDLE (Handicap: £1,842; 2m) (13)  
102 1130-00 HIGH OLD TIME (C) (Duchess) 5 lb 11-11 P Blacker  
103 1130-00 NEVER (D) (Duchess) 5 lb 11-11 P Blacker  
104 1130-00 KILBRIDE CASTLE (C) (W Whitbread) 5 lb 11-11 P Blacker  
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## Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2	Radio 1
<p>9.05 <i>Swim</i>: perfecting the back stroke (r); 9.30 <i>Swap Shop</i>; with Sheila Easton and Bill (Last of the Summer Wine) Owen; 12.15 <i>Grandstand</i>. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 Skiing from Schladming; 1.05 News Summary; 1.10 <i>Skating</i>: the European championships (highlights of the ice dancing competition); 1.20 <i>Racing from Wetherby</i>; 1.40 <i>World Bobsleigh Championships</i>, from St Moritz (the two-man bob); 1.50 <i>Racing from Wetherby</i>; 2.10 <i>Bobsleigh championships</i>; 2.20 <i>International Rugby Union</i>: England versus Ireland; from Twickenham; Bill Beaumont's men are going all out for a hat-trick of wins against the Irish; 3.50 <i>Half-time scores</i>; 3.55 <i>Wales versus France</i>; from Cardiff Arms Park. Highlights of the big game.</p> <p>4.35 <i>Grandstand</i>: Final scores. And pools check.</p> <p>5.10 <i>The All New Pink Panther Show</i>: three cartoons; 5.30 <i>News</i>; 5.40 <i>Sport</i>.</p> <p>5.45 <i>Kung Fu</i>: Greatest Western series. Caine (David Carradine) re-lives some of the events that led to his exile from China.</p> <p>6.35 <i>Jim'll Fix It</i>: Two children spend a day with the Metropolitan Police and a little girl shrinks and expands. Alice style.</p> <p>7.10 <i>Nanny</i>: Sophia, home from boarding school, draws closer to a young groom and this puts Barbara (Wendy Craig) on the spot.</p> <p>8.05 <i>The Les Dawson Show</i>: with Helen Getzer (of <i>Bubbling Brown Sugar</i>) and the 12-year-old pianist Vince Pope.</p> <p>8.35 <i>Dallas</i>: J. R. continues in his attempts to regain custody of his son.</p>	<p>10.10 <i>Open University</i>. Starting School; 10.35 <i>Governing Schools</i> (the interview); 11.00 <i>Students meet the Vice-Chancellor</i>; 11.25 <i>Introduction to Education</i>; 12.15 <i>Introduction to the Organ</i>; 1.05 <i>Maths methods</i>; 1.30 <i>Before Einstein</i>; 2.20 <i>Closedown</i>; 3.05 <i>Film: Against the Wind</i> (1947). British-made wartime drama about seven people involved in a sabotage mission against the Gestapo in Belgium. Starring Robert Beatty, Simone Signoret, Jack Warner, Gordon Jackson. Screenplay by T.E.B. Clarke. Directed by Charles Crichton.</p> <p>4.35 <i>The play Away Square Tomato</i>. Show: Sketches and music.</p> <p>5.00 <i>Film: The Glass Mountain</i> (1948) Romantic drama set in wartime Italy about a British composer (Michael Denison) who writes an opera based on an old alpine legend.</p> <p>6.35 <i>Oxford: The Other Image</i>. The story of a good neighbour who brings a middle-class suburb to life. The 1977 <i>Queen's Silver Jubilee</i> euphoria; 7.05 <i>News</i>.</p> <p>7.25 <i>Did You See ... ?</i> Includes a special report on privacy and the filmmaker. Also, reviews of <i>The Test Tube</i> (Exposition from Hilary Henson), <i>Two Nations</i> (Barry Hines) and <i>The Bell</i>.</p> <p>8.05 <i>Ceremonies and Rituals</i>: 1981 From concert with a difference.</p>	<p>8.35 <i>Seasame Street</i>: with The Muppets; 9.35 <i>Thunderbirds</i>; 10.30 <i>Teletime</i>: the newest show on earth; 12.15 <i>World of Sport</i>. The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 <i>The World Alpine Skiing Championships</i>; 1.15 <i>News</i>; 1.20 <i>The ITV Seven</i>. We see the following races. From Kempton, the 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00. From Stratford, the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45. At 3.10 there's the Swimming and Athletics — the Speedo Meet, from the Amsterdam in The Netherlands, and the Los Angeles Times Games. Among those competing in the athletics are Renato Nhemiah and Steve Scott; 3.45 <i>Half-time football news</i> and reports of other sports events.</p> <p>4.00 <i>Wrestling: World of Sport</i> (continued). Wrestling. From Preston. One Middleweight and two Heavyweight bouts; 4.50 <i>Results</i>.</p> <p>5.05 <i>News from ITN</i>.</p> <p>5.15 <i>Happy Days</i>: The school play which a misadventure goes wrong — and what follows.</p> <p>5.45 <i>Dick Turpin</i>: The highwayman (Richard O'Sullivan) lives on a rescue mission. Bryan Marshall plays the dastardly Barnaby Rook.</p> <p>6.15 <i>3-2-1</i>: Quiz show with comedy interludes which tonight puts the emphasis on magic.</p> <p>6.15 <i>Feedback</i>, with Tom Vernon.</p> <p>7.45 <i>Hart to Hart</i>: Jennifer (Stefanie Powers) is stalked by a psychotic judge of a rose contest.</p> <p>8.45 <i>News from ITN</i>. And sports reports.</p>	<p>6.25 <i>Shipping Forecast</i>.</p> <p>6.30 <i>Morning News</i>.</p> <p>6.35 <i>Farming Today</i>.</p> <p>6.50 <i>Yours Faithfully</i>. Religious affairs.</p> <p>6.55 <i>Weather and Programme News</i>.</p> <p>7.00 <i>News</i>.</p> <p>7.05 <i>Today's Papers</i>.</p> <p>7.15 <i>On Your Farm</i>.</p> <p>7.45 <i>It's a Bargain</i>.</p> <p>7.55 <i>Weather and Programme News</i>.</p> <p>8.00 <i>News</i>.</p> <p>8.10 <i>Today's Papers</i>.</p> <p>8.15 <i>Lighten our Darkness</i>. An evening meditation.</p> <p>11.05 <i>On the Train to New Zealand</i>. Ray Gosling talks about his travels to the East (6). Calcutta Christmas.</p> <p>11.45 <i>Today's Papers</i>.</p> <p>12.00 <i>News and Weather</i>.</p>	<p>7.55 <i>Weather</i>.</p> <p>8.00 <i>News</i>.</p> <p>8.05 <i>Autosport</i>. Roselli, Ponce, Meyerbeer art. Lambert; records.</p> <p>8.10 <i>Any Questions?</i>.</p> <p>8.15 <i>John Peel and the Old</i>.</p> <p>8.20 <i>Play</i>, by Peter Crowther.</p> <p>8.25 <i>Madeline Now</i>.</p> <p>8.30 <i>Wildlife</i>.</p> <p>8.35 <i>The 9.45-10.45 Sportsline</i>. In the words of those who made it (4) <i>The Merchants</i>.</p> <p>8.45 <i>Feedback</i>, with Tom Vernon.</p> <p>9.15 <i>I Know What I Like</i>. A personal choice of records by Irish composer, Seán Bodley.</p> <p>1.00 <i>Early Music Forum</i>.</p> <p>2.00 <i>Play It Again</i>. Selection of recent music broadcasts.</p>	<p>5.00 <i>Jazz Record Requests</i> with Peter Clayton.</p> <p>5.45 <i>Critics' Forum</i>. Weekly review of broadcasting, cinema, theatre, books and the visual arts.</p> <p>6.35 <i>Violin and Piano Recital</i>: Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Ravel.</p> <p>7.30 <i>Funfare Ltd.</i> A short story by Bernard MacLaverty.</p> <p>8.00 <i>Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra</i>. Concert. Part 1: Blomdahl, Beethoven.</p> <p>8.50 <i>Interval</i>, including:</p> <p>8.55 <i>Concert</i>, part 2: Sibelius.</p> <p>9.05 <i>The Village Song Men</i>. A portrait of Robert Hardy, stonebreaker and singer in South Devon, in the nineteenth century.</p> <p>10.30 <i>Liszt Piano recital</i>.</p> <p>11.00 <i>News</i>.</p> <p>11.05 <i>Humor</i> and Piano. Florent Schmitt; record.</p>	<p>5.00am <i>As Radio 2</i>. 7.00 <i>Playground</i>. 8.00 <i>Tom Blackwood</i>. 10.00 <i>Peter Powell</i>. 12.00 <i>My Top 12</i>. 1.00 <i>Adrian Jura</i>. 2.00 <i>A King in New York</i>. 2.05 <i>Paul Gambaccini</i>. 4.00 <i>Walters</i>. Weekly. 5.00 <i>Rock On</i>. 6.30 <i>In Concert</i>. 7.30 <i>Close</i>.</p> <p><b>World Service</b></p> <p>BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (548 kHz) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 <i>News</i>. 7.00 <i>World News</i>. 7.05 <i>News</i>. 7.15 <i>From the World</i>. 7.45 <i>News</i>. 8.00 <i>World News</i>. 8.05 <i>Reflections</i>. 8.15 <i>World News</i>. 9.05 <i>Review of the British Press</i>. 9.15 <i>The World Today</i>. 9.30 <i>Financial News</i>. 9.40 <i>Look Ahead</i>. 9.45 <i>Science in Action</i>. 10.15 <i>About Britain</i>. 10.30 <i>A Murder of Crows</i>. 11.00 <i>Anybody Go?</i>. 11.05 <i>News</i>. 11.20 <i>The Week in Wales</i>. 11.30 <i>Meridian</i>. 12.00 <i>Radio News</i>. 12.15 <i>Anybody Go?</i>. 12.20 <i>Sports Roundup</i>. 1.00 <i>World News</i>. 1.05 <i>Commentary</i>. 1.15 <i>Network UK</i>. 1.30 <i>Opera</i>. 1.45 <i>World News</i>. 1.50 <i>News</i>. 2.00 <i>World News</i>. 2.05 <i>News</i>. 2.15 <i>Good Book</i>. 2.20 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